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Vol. 49, No. 5 March 21, 2024 \$1.00



Transition at Sherwood-Jayne FarmPreservation Long Island moves animals

A3



'Jersey Boys' opens in Northport
Also: Gordon Lightfoot tribute concert
heads to the Long Island Museum, Easter
Egg Hunts on the North Shore

B1

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Sherwood-Jayne Farm no longer hosts animals

Preservation Long Island is exploring other ways to run a working farm

BY MALLIE JANE KIM

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The bucolic farm scene on East Setauket's historic Sherwood-Jayne Farm no longer includes grazing animals, as the elderly pony

COMMUNITY

and four sheep who lived there were recently moved to new

homes. According to farm owner Preservation Long Island, they are settling in well, and the organization is looking forward to the future of the farm.

"It's a new beginning, and it's a nice place," said PLI executive director Alexandra Wolfe.

According to Wolfe, the sheep have gone to Berkshire Farm Sanctuary in Massachusetts, and the pony, Snowball, has moved to a private family property on Long Island, with people who are familiar with caring for elderly ponies. Wolfe said PLI moved Snowball first so she wouldn't be left alone on the farm, after a vet deemed her safe for transport and "very sound" for a pony her age — some 40 years old.

Wolfe said her contact at the farm sanctuary told her this week that the sheep are adapting well and getting ready to join a new flock. "It looks like heaven up there, as far as I'm concerned," Wolfe said of Berkshire. "If I was an animal, I'd want to go retire there."

It was a calm end to a contentious chapter

on the farm. After hearing of plans to rehome the animals last summer, some area residents protested in an attempt to get PLI to change its plans — people were attached to the animals and enjoyed having that picture of historic farm life on Old Post Road. A petition to that effect garnered more than 3,500 signatures.

Surprised by the community response, PLI paused plans for a time but ultimately arrived on a November morning to move the animals, with short notice to the animals' longtime caretaker Susanna Gatz. Friends of Gatz and other concerned neighbors formed an impromptu protest. Tensions ran high, but in the end the organization tasked with transportation decided the animals were too spooked to force into a vehicle.

Despite the protests, PLI maintained that animal care was not central to their mission, which is to celebrate and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the region. Also, Wolfe explained, the organization's board didn't feel it could meet best practices related to maintaining livestock at historic sites, pointing to a document that lays out details to consider, including fencing type, feed storage, security measures and many other factors.

"Preservation Long Island doesn't have the capacity or resources to implement a viable interpretation of 19th-century livestock farming." Wolfe explained. "The primary motivator for Preservation Long Island is best practices."

So PLI opted to give Gatz official notice to



The pony Snowball once kept at Sherwood-Jayne Farm. Photo courtesy Mallie Jane Kim

move out of her on-site apartment, and they waited until she had moved and the freezing weather passed before rehoming the animals.

Still, some residents are sad to see the farm quiet, without its grazers. The school bus that drives by every afternoon will no longer slow down for the kids to wave at Snowball and the small flock of sheep.

"It's a bit lifeless now," said Tony Lopez of East Setauket. "It was always nice when you drove by and saw someone stopped there looking at the animals — it was a gem."

Lopez says he wishes the community and PLI could've worked something out to allow the animals to stay but he maintains the historic house itself is a gift to the community, and said he hopes PLI can bring back some of the festivals Sherwood-Jayne used to host.

Festivals may be a long way off, though, because of county regulations on the property that prohibit use of the pasture as a parking

lot and require PLI to obtain county permission before hosting big events that include the farmland.

Those regulations came to light last fall as part of a letter from Suffolk County informing PLI the property was out of compliance with its Farmland Preservation Development Rights program. The county and the Town of Brookhaven jointly purchased

development rights to the farm parcel in 2003, requiring Sherwood-Jayne to maintain a working commercial farm.

According to Wolfe, PLI is in the process of seeking out local partners, like the Peconic Land Trust, to help sort out the most fitting way to bring the property back into compliance.

PLI's board does not want to jump into a relationship with a farmer who would bring in large, commercial equipment, Wolfe said, so they will take their time researching and deciding.

"It has to be in alignment with the historic character of the farm," she said, adding that whatever they do should match PLI's interpretive goals and the natural setting. "Our goal is also to find something that contributes to the community in some way."

Lawrence Aviation buildings demolished, redevelopment awaited

BY SABRINA ARTUSA

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The long-abandoned Lawrence Aviation Superfund site in Port Jefferson Station is now completely demolished, and nearly ready for development.

The Metropolitan

COMMUNITY

n Transportation
Authority has been pursuing a contract to purchase 40 acres

of the property to convert into a rail yard. Another portion is expected to be used for a solar farm. The rest will likely be preserved as open space.

Herb Mones, Friends of the Greenway editor-in-chief and president of the Three Village Community Trust, wrote in an email that while there hasn't been an official sale to either the MTA or to a solar farm firm, it is likely that these sales will happen and that a portion of the Greenway trail will have to



Conceptual plans for the 126-acre Lawrence Aviation Superfund site in Port Jefferson Station. Graphic from Suffolk County Landbank

be rerouted to accommodate a new rail yard.

"This is great news for the surrounding community as it finally clears a giant eyesore and place for hanging out," said Charlie McAteer, chair of Friends of the Greenway. "The idea of relocating the train yard to this site, along with the proposed passive solar farm and one-third of the space as open space, is a great benefit to all."

The buildings are indeed demolished, but the area may need to undergo further examination to ensure that all harmful chemicals are neutralized. In order to continue with development plans, the Environmental Protection Agency is investigating for any residual contamination. The EPA expects to have more knowledge about the land's status this summer. If further extensive remediation is required, it will be addressed in a public meeting.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website stated, "Remediation activities will continue for several years to come. The site cleanup activities will also result in site safety and security, allowing for a planned solar farm to be installed in the former footprint of the site buildings."

According to Mones, the MTA and the NYS Department of Transportation are in disagreement over a portion of the Greenway. Reportedly, the NYSDOT is unwilling to relinquish the portion of the Greenway that the MTA plans to use for the new rail yard.

The MTA hasn't explicitly stated any intention to electrify the Port Jefferson Branch line. TBR News Media reported MTA CEO Janno Lieber as having said at an October meeting that electrification of the line was under consideration.

In rerouting, Friends of the Greenway wants to ensure the preservation of the trail experience, and has noted "requirements" such as security barriers between the rail yard and the path, a "significant buffer" between the path and homes, and accessibility.

"The redevelopment of the Lawrence Aviation property will benefit the wider community," Mones said. "The removal of the buildings finally brings to an end a decaying, dilapidated industrial site that often attracted criminal activity: vandalism, graffiti, trespassing."

Northville Industries seeks to develop its South Setauket property

BY MALLIE JANE KIM

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

South Setauket may see three mega-warehouses with 77 loading stalls for tractor trailers, if a site plan by Northville Industries goes through. The petroleum storage and distribution company sent a letter to neighbors explaining the plan and inviting comment at a public meeting in the Centereach Holiday Inn Express set for Monday, March 25.

"This is an area that's underserved for

TOWN

warehouse Northville's lawyer Tim Shea said. "Most of the warehouses are by the freeway or on the South

But that's not the only plan on the table.

Shea indicated the company would also present the option of multifamily housing: "We had discussed the alternative of doing multifamily, and we plan to offer that alternative to the neighbors at that meeting."

Town board approval required

The property, bordered by Upper Sheep Pasture Road and Belle Mead Road, is zoned for industrial use, and that zoning would need to be changed to add an apartment complex or townhome community, for example.

But that suggestion has already faced pushback at the town level.

Brookhaven Councilmember Jonathan Kornreich (D-Stony Brook) acknowledged Northville had approached him about rezoning for multifamily homes, something he is against. "I told them it's not an appropriate site next to

the gas tanks, and in the middle of this other neighborhood," he said.

Shea contends any multifamily housing would meet setback requirements from the tanks, adding that he's familiar with other areas of the country that have housing similarly situated near tanks like the ones in Setauket.

Kornreich, who deals closely with land use and zoning issues in his role on the town council, said he has seen developers in other situations use a "carrot and stick" method to rally community support: Asking for what they truly want but, in the face of resistance, offering something that might sound worse but is within their rights to build. Kornreich said he'd be curious to see if that is the strategy in this case.

"Sometimes communities are given a false choice," he said.

The potential "false choice" in this case is a proposed addition of a driveway onto Upper Sheep Pasture Road, where traffic is already tricky and not built for large trucks. At issue is a stipulation in a zoning lawsuit settlement from the 1990s, which contains a stipulation that, according to Shea, permits Northville to add a driveway north onto Sheep Pasture Road. According to Kornreich, the town's legal department disagrees.

In any case, Northville would still need town board approval. Kornreich said he would oppose a site plan if it includes that driveway, and he sees no reason his councilmember colleagues would break with him on this issue.

"It would be extremely unlikely for them to override a decision in my district, especially over something as small as the position of a driveway," he said, pointing to the respect among current board members.

Local reaction

George Hoffman, one of the Three Village Civic Association leaders who attended meetings between Kornreich and Northville, expressed grave concerns about adding that driveway on Upper Sheep Pasture. "It really jams up — it's not a good corner," Hoffman said. "This could be one of those last-mile warehouses where you have those trucks coming in and out, and the quality of life for people who live on those streets is really going to be impacted."

Shea said Northville does not have a contract in place for use of the proposed warehouses, so it's not decided who the final user would be and what the warehouses would be used for.

He added that Northville sent its notification letter even more broadly than required by town code out of a desire to interact with the neighbors, and indicated the company has heard the concerns about a northern driveway. "When we did our traffic analysis," he said, "it came out that having the entrance on Sheep Pasture Road would actually lessen the impact on traffic to the area, rather than pushing everything to Belle Mead Road."

But Hoffman, who is also a water quality advocate and has raised concerns about Northville in the past, wishes the gas company would be more willing to work with community representatives, especially in light of its environmental record. In 1988. Northville revealed it had suffered a slow gas leak of about 1.2 million gallons of gasoline into the ground at the Setauket property, which, according to news articles at the time, led to years of remediation, \$25 million in damages and repairs and a \$7.2 million settlement with homeowners who said their property values had declined in the aftermath of the spill.

"They have a terrible environmental history," Hoffman said. "Why do they want to be so confrontational to the community and to the

For his part, Kornreich does not see a problem with new warehouses per se, as long as trucks are not funneled onto the residential Sheep Pasture Road. He said warehouses are within Northville's industrial zoning rights, and they could help diversify the area's economy while providing good-paying jobs.

"You've got to have some industrial space around, and that's the space for it," Kornreich said. "You're not cutting down trees, and it's on land that's not being used for anything else."

Traffic disruption is only one of the concerns for nearby residents, though. Gillian Maser, who lives nearby on Upper Sheep Pasture Road and within sight distance of the large gas tanks, said she is also concerned about the environmental impact and noise pollution in a relatively quiet, family community.

"I'm trying to stay as objective as possible, but there are definitely some red flags on this one," Maser said. "With 77 tractor trailer bays, there could be a lot of noise in the middle of the night, with trucks loading and unloading."

Maser said she and her husband are hoping to attend the March 25 meeting.

Port Jefferson EMS gets creative amid statewide EMT crisis Stony Brook University pre-health students step up as volunteer EMTs

BY LYNN HALLARMAN

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Stony Brook University master's student Kelly Ng didn't intend to be an emergency medical technician. Then, a friend took her to a training as part of the Port Jefferson Emergency Medical Services volunteer

"At first, I was tagging along," Ng said. Her friend eventually quit the program, but Ng

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

discovered she loved emergency care and the adrenaline rush of helping people.

I met with Ng and her fellow EMT, Adelaide Matthews, a junior also at Stony Brook, at the headquarters of the not-for-profit PJEMS, based in Mount Sinai. Both live at the station as part of the "bunk-in" program open to fulltime university students. Matthews decided

to undergo EMT training because "it seemed cool," and thought it would be a good way to get hands-on experience in medicine. Both are planning on applying to either physician assistant school or medical school. Ng has been with the program for almost four years, and Matthews for two years.

PJEMS developed the bunk-in program as part of an organizational initiative to engage pre-health care university students as volunteer EMTs. "We had an urgent need to get creative in our approach to recruiting and retaining volunteer EMTs," said Mike Presta, paramedic and deputy director of special operations for PJEMS. Presta saw the initiative as a win-win: Pre-physician assistant, pre-medicine and prenursing students would get the volunteer hours they need as part of their application process, and the organization would have a pipeline of volunteer EMTs.

In 2015, the Port Jeff organization started the College Student EMS Program. Students train to be full-fledged New York Statecertified EMTS and respond to calls in the community alongside paid professionals. "They get invaluable experience as primary patient-care providers" Presta said.

At first, the organization focused on recruiting from the pre-PA program since they have the largest hourly volunteer requirement. "Then it just spread like wildfire because there weren't a lot of opportunities like that around for the students," Presta said.

In 2016, the bunk-in program was added. Students must be willing to commit to three eight-hour shifts per week. In return, the students get free room and board at the station and the opportunity to serve in leadership positions in their mentorship program. The bunk-in program is the first in New York state, according to Presta. "A couple of EMS upstate have replicated their program, but none locally," he said. The Port Jeff College Student EMS Program currently has about 135 student volunteer EMTs, 15 of whom participate in the bunk-in program.

Over the years, Presta has seen a massive increase in the total number of calls per year as the population density in their coverage area has increased: "When I started here in 2007, I remember we broke 1,000 calls a year. And that was a big deal. But now, I can't believe how busy it is. Last year, we did about 3,500 runs."

A visit to Port Jeff EMS

The day I met with Ng and Matthews, the station was quiet. A cluster of unassuming low-slung buildings houses PJEMS on the corner of Route 347 and Crystal Brook Hollow Road. A row of ambulances sits in front of the garage, repurposed as a makeshift gym.

The rear of the building has been extended with a trailer unit to make room for the bunkin program, which now replaces the spaces in the main building once used for offices. The largest space in the building is part command control and part community center, with a

CONTINUED ON A7

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF NASSAU

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASSITHROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-EMX7,

٧.

JEAN JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL, JR. A/K/A JOHN SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN SENECHAL, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 29, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR RESIDEN-TIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQ-UITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-EMX7 is the Plaintiff and JEAN JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL, JR. A/K/A JOHN SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN SENECHAL, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT. NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on April 9, 2024 at 2:00PM, premises known as 55 WEST EUCLID ST, VALLEY STREAM, NY 11580: Section 37, Block 509, Lot 346 & 347:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF VALLEY STREAM, COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #

006742/2014. Malachy Patrick Lyons, Jr., Esq. -Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUB-JECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIREC-TIVES.

194180 3/7 4x vth

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF OLD FIELD PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT sealed proposals will be received by the Inc. Village of Old Field, New York, on or before Monday, April 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 207 Old Field Road, Setauket at which time they will be publicly opened and read and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

Landscaping and maintenance work in the public parks and on the public streets of the Village of Old Field.

A detailed list of the required work can be examined at the Office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 207 Old Field Road, Setauket, on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Board of Trustees may vote on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of theIncorporated Village of Old Field, New York.

Lynda Howell Village Clerk March 12, 2024

197020 3/21 1x vth

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE OF OLD FIELD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public meeting will be held by the Planning Board of the

Incorporated Village of Old Field, Suffolk County, New York at the Keepers Cottage on 207 Old Field Road in said Village on Thursday April 4, 2024 at 4 p.m. to consider an application preliminary approval of a 13 -Lot subdivision by the applicant Sunset View Road, LLC.

By Order of Planning Board Incorporated Village of Old Field Suffolk County, New York

Lynda Howell Village Clerk

Dated: March 12, 2024

197030 3/21 1x vth

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SALE OF A 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe

STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stony Brook Fire District will accept public bids for the following:

The sale of a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe, in "as is" condition. The minimum bid shall be \$8,000.00.

The 2010 Chevrolet may be inspected at the Stony Brook Fire District, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m., with prior advance notice or by appointment. Bidders should contact the District Manager, Christopher Schwenker, at (631) 751-0460, ext. 129, or (631) 445-5562 to schedule an appointment to inspect the 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe. Bids shall be returnable prior to 4:00 p.m., time then in effect, on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the District Office located at 147 Main Street, Stony Brook, New York, and will be read aloud commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the April 11, 2024 monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID PROPOSAL, STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT - SALE OF 2010 CHEVROLET TAHOE".

The Board of Fire Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive informalities as the interest of the Fire District may require.

Dated: March 15, 2024 Stony Brook, New York

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT

Christopher Schwenker, District Manager

197610 3/21 1x vth

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT will have an Information Hearing on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Station 1 firehouse located at 147 Main Street, Stony Brook, New York to review and invite the public comment on the upcoming referendum for voters to approve the purchase of Radios, with necessary and related equipment.

Dated: March 14, 2024 Stony Brook, New York

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT

Christopher Schwenker, District Manager

197620 3/21 1x vth

PUBLIC NOTICES

STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGISTRATION ROLLS And FOR SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Board of Elections of the STONY BROOK FIRE DIS-TRICT shall meet on the 16th day of April, 2024, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. at the Stony Brook Firehouse, 147 Main Street, Stony Brook, New York 11790 for the purpose of preparing the rolls of registered voters of the STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT for use at the Special Fire District Election on April 23, 2024.

Please note that only those persons who have registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections on or before March 31, 2024 shall be eligible to vote at this election.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a Special Election of the STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT will take place on April 23, 2024 between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. (prevailing time) for the purpose stated in the below proposition. Please note that this Election will take place AT A SINGLE LOCATION, STONY BROOK FIRE HOUSE, STA-TION 2, 1410 STONY BROOK ROAD, STONY BROOK. New York. There will NO voting for this Election at 147 Main Street, Stony Brook, New York.

PROPOSITION

The Board of Fire Commissioners is hereby authorized to purchase Radios with necessary and related equipment, for an amount not to exceed One Million Nine Hundred Thousand and NO/100 (1,900,000.00) Dollars.

Dated: Stony Brook, New York March 14, 2024

By Order of The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stony Brook Fire District

Christopher Schwenker, District Manager

197630 3/21 1x vth

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 ZON-ING APPEALS WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW, HOLD THE FOLLOWING, AT ONE IN-DEPENDENCE HILL, FAR-MINGVILLE, N.Y.: 1. A WORKSESSION ON MARCH 25, 2024 (BZA CON-FERENCE ROOM - 1ST FLOOR) AT 4:00 P.M., 2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 (2ND FLOOR AUDITO-RIUM) COMMENCING AT 2:00 P.M. (THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED OVER THE INTERNET AT https:// brookhavenny.portal. civicclerk.com, TO CON-SIDER THE MATTERS LISTED BELOW and 3. A WORKSESSION ON MARCH 27, 2024, (PUBLIC DINING AREA 2ND FLOOR) COMMENCING AT THE END OF THE CALL OF EITHER THE 2:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING CALENDAR AND/ OR THE END OF THE CALL OF THE ENTIRE PUBLIC CALENDAR, AS TIME PER-MITS TO DISCUSS THE THE DECISION CALENDAR

VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

THE FOLLOWING CASES WILL COMMENCE AT 4PM

31. Edmund Kaufman & Audrey Troyka, 7 Wels Ln., East Setauket, NY. Location: East side Wels Ln., 309.59' North of Van Brunt Manor Rd., East Setauket. Applicant requests height and side yard variances for existing 12.3 ft. high shed (12 ft. high permitted) located in the required side yard (not permitted). (0200 06400 0100 013000)

42. Janice Sander Shea Living Trust, c/o Andrew Malguarnera, 713 Main St., Port Jefferson, NY. Location: North side Erland Rd., 1178.49' Northwest of Leaming Ave., Stony Brook. Applicant requests height variances for existing 2 story detached garage exceeding 600 sq. ft. permitted (928 sq. ft. 1st floor, 750 sq. ft. 2nd floor) with 7 ft. ceiling height in storage area (6 ft. high permitted). (0200 15200 0300 001002)

LEGALS con't on pg. 9

Bronx man sentenced to 1-3 years for identity theft of multiple SC residents

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on March 13 that Donald Archibald, 44, of the Bronx, was sentenced to one to three years in prison after he pleaded guilty in February to multiple counts of grand larceny and identity theft for stealing the identities of multiple Suffolk County residents and then using their personal identifying information to obtain money.

"Identity theft comes with serious consequences. Not only for the thief but also for the victims. No one wants their personal information stolen and used for illegal activities or have their funds wiped out to fund a criminal's greed," said District Attorney Tierney. "We take these crimes seriously and we will continue to go after those who take advantage of others through such deceptive and invasive means."

According to court documents and the defendant's admissions during his guilty plea allocution, on April 13, 2023, at approximately 12:12 p.m., after obtaining his first victim's Suffolk County address and contact information off the dark web, Archibald entered an M&T

TBR News Media Connecting



Donald Archibald

Bank in Bridgeport, Connecticut and displayed a false driver's license to the bank teller. The license displayed the victim's correct name and address but had the defendant's face depicted. Archibald presented the teller with a withdrawal slip and withdrew \$2,000 from the victim's checking account.

Later that same day, at approximately 12:36 p.m., Archibald entered a different M&T Bank branch in Bridgeport,

Connecticut and used the same Suffolk County resident's bank account information and a "washed" check to withdraw \$3,000 in cash from the victim's account.

In a similar scheme, on April 14, 2023, after once again obtaining another Suffolk County resident's personal information off the dark web, Archibald entered a TD Bank in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and, similarly, displayed a false driver's license with a picture of his own face but with the victim's information. Archibald then cashed a \$4,500 "washed" check issued in the name of the victim.

—SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE

PO LICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:



From left, Thelma and Louise Photo from SCPD

Two dogs abandoned in Kings Park

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Suffolk County Police Department, and Crime Stoppers are seeking the public's help in identifying and locating the individual(s) wanted in connection to the abandonment of two small dogs in Kings Park

On March 5, at approximately 12:10 p.m., an unknown subject driving a tan or gold SUV was seen pushing two small white dogs out of the subject's car, releasing them into Sunken Meadow State Park, and then fleeing. The two dogs were subsequently located and brought to the Town of Smithtown Animal Shelter covered in ticks. The dogs were not microchipped and had no other identifying information.

The Town of Smithtown renamed the dogs "Thelma" and "Louise." Both mixed breed dogs, Thelma is estimated to be four years old while Louise is estimated to be two years old. Both dogs have since been adopted.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-8477. Crime Stoppers has pledged a reward of up to \$5,000 for any information that results in an arrest.

Visit www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police for more press releases from the Suffolk County Police.



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for Petit Larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Fourth Precinct Crime Section officer are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the man who allegedly stole from a Lake Grove store this month.

A man allegedly stole Yeti mugs valued at \$280 from Dick's Sporting Goods, located at the Smith Haven Mall, on March 10 at approximately 3:30 p.m.

— 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.

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Three Village Student Art and Technology Fair a success

BY KATHERINE KELTON
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The annual Three Village Student Art and

COMMUNITY

Technology Fair featuring hundreds of works from local K-12 students was

held Saturday, March 16, at Hilton Garden Inn in Stony Brook.



"During 2020 we all went on lockdown," said Jennifer Trettner, head of the Three Village Central School District art department

and coordinator of the event. "I had made arrangements to start having our show here. It's a bigger space than where we used to have it. And then, of course, we couldn't have the show for the next two years. Last year was our first year here, and it truly is a wonderful space. We love having a partnership with the campus here."

Hundreds of people filed into the venue to view the exhibits. Students from the technology and art classes of Three Village school district showcased different pieces and projects.

Raymond Lang, a junior at Ward Melville High School shared, "I think it's important to show the diversity of the art department and Three Village and all of the different aspects of the programs that we have like graphic design, computer art, film and traditional painting, drawing, as well as photography."

Lang contributed three of his own works with a theme of the influential women of his life

Other students displayed samples of their art portfolios, like senior Ashton Hopkins. "Well, my theme is about how people are remembered and what influence they leave on the world when they die," he said.

For the students in the middle and elementary schools, teachers selected artwork to be showcased at the event.

Seventh grader Gianna Inserra's



Scenes from the Three Village Student Art and Technology Fair on March 16. Photos by Katherine Kelton

dimensional art piece was chosen for the show. However, for her, the art show is special not only to see her art but also to find inspiration. "Seeing other people's artwork can inspire me what to do next," Gianna said.

For teachers in the two departments, Saturday was a special day for a lot of different reasons. Maria Maritato, Gelinas Junior High School art teacher, said, "It's so amazing as an art teacher to see our students bloom from elementary to high school."

The TVCSD technology department is also an integral part of the event, Gelinas technology teacher Dean Kostis explained. "Whenever we do anything in technology we try to do our research, then our design, then we make the product and then we assess it," he said.

The acting principal of Ward Melville High School, Paul Gold, also attended. "I think that Three Village goes above and beyond to meet the needs of all learners," he said. "For those students who are passionate about art technology and design, it's in our hallways at Three Village that these students can be successful and thrive."

According to Gold and Trettner, the event was a major success for the school district, also the art and technology departments.



EMSContinued from A4

weary bodies in need of rest between runs. A spotless kitchen overlooks a fenced-in backyard designed for the canine unit. Big screens line a wall, tracking deployed crews. EMT students — "probies" (shorthand for "on probation") — lounge around a conference room table in Uggs and sweatpants, waiting for a teaching session to start.

PJEMS is the primary ambulance service for the village of Port Jefferson, Belle Terre and Mount Sinai. According to its website, the coverage area comprises several schools, hospitals, medical facilities, a ferry terminal, two harbors and 6 miles of residential and commercial waterfront on the Long Island Sound

The organization is one of the region's few "station-based" response units, meaning every shift has two professional paramedics and a crew of volunteer EMTs on site 24/7. The system is tightly designed with checks and oversight. Paramedics are trained in advanced lifesaving techniques beyond the basic skills learned by EMTs. No Port Jefferson volunteer EMT is left on their own or without backup from a paramedic.

PJEMS, which has existed since 1959, started as 100% volunteer. However, as the area's population grew and demand increased, the service added paid staff. According to

Presta, community residents represent only about 10% of the 150 total number of EMT volunteers, with the rest mostly university students — including those in the bunk-in program. Still, Presta wishes more residents were interested in volunteering. "But there is no sell," he said. "A person must have a strong intrinsic motivation to serve."

New York State EMS crisis

In 2019, a NYS Emergency Services Medical Council report identified insufficient EMS workforce reaching critical levels. EMS agencies statewide identified workforce shortages as impairing their ability to respond to need, causing delayed response times or resulting in missed calls.

The report identified a tsunami of circumstances that have led to the workforce shortage, including the aging of volunteer EMTs, lack of pay equity for professional EMTs and antiquated insurance reimbursement models. Add in an uptick in mental health calls, older patients with complex care needs plus drug and alcohol-related calls, EMS programs across the state started showing signs of critical strain. These problems worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an alarming overall drop in volunteerism to today's levels, characterized by the NYS Association of Counties as a crisis.

I was surprised to learn from state Sen. Monica Martinez (D-Brentwood) that EMS are not designated as essential services by New York State. I met with the senator at her

office in Hauppauge to better understand the statewide response to the EMT crisis. Martinez has been at the forefront of advocating for policy changes at the state level as part of a legislative initiative called Rescue EMS. She has sponsored or co-sponsored several bills meant to bolster the volunteer EMT workforce, including increases in tax credits for volunteer EMTs, establishing a "Vets to Vollies" program which encourages veterans to join their local EMS or fire department and establishing a 90-day death benefit payment for volunteer EMTs and firefighters.

Martinez loves what

PJEMS is doing with its student program, and imagines replicating the program in her 4th District at perhaps the high school level or as part of their junior leadership program.

Ng and Matthews are happy to be part of the crew I work with."



Kelly Ng and Adelaide Matthews. Photo by Lynn Hallarman

Port Jefferson EMS first responder community. "It's not just the medical knowledge we learn, it's about how to talk to people and get them to trust us," Matthews said. "And I really like the crew I work with."

Madam Martha Smith, Brookhaven's 17th-century leading light Part two

BY BEVERLY C. TYLER
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

As detailed by Kate Strong, "In 1675 [in Tangier] Colonel William Smith...bought a great book, sometimes called 'The Tangier Book' and sometimes 'The First Pigskin Book.' The first entry was a statement of his marriage. After that he recorded the baptisms [including minister and godparents], and

HISTORY CLOSE As he wrote on only one side of the page, his wife, Martha, turned the book

some deaths, of his numerous children. As he wrote on only one side of the page, his wife, Martha, turned the book upside down and wrote her recipes

— in some cases telling the name of the person giving her the recipe."

The recipes and notes Martha made in the first pigskin book were most likely entered during the years on Long Island. "She sometimes added a few bits of news," Kate Strong wrote, "as when she told that Colonel William's sickness came from a strain he had incurred in lifting her off the horse...later she recorded that her dear Billy was better."

Kate Strong listed just a few of the recipes including: "To make pancakes – take the yokes of six eggs, add ye one white and one pint of cream and half a pint of sacke & nutmeg and a little salt and some sugar. Make the batter of a reasonable thickness, work in some flower [sic] and fry them..." Martha also included recipes for medicinal purposes, including one from her daughter. "For a sore throat or Quinsey — take Rue and pound it pretty fine and make a poultice and plaster, must be an inch thick & lay it on ye side of ye throat. It is a sure cure. You may sprinkle it with brandy..."

"This prescription is said to work like a charm for sore throat; Roast some apples very soft, smash them with as much butter as an English walnut, with a spoonful of molasses, mix well together. Take it hot and go to bed – given by daughter Heathcott."

Martha also wrote down some of the "old wives tales" of the period as well as recipes for household items that were not always easy to come by on rural Long Island. "When you gather apples or pears, to keep them you must gather them when the moon is at the full.... A recipe to make good ink. Take two quarts of strong vinegar, half a pound of galles or hard oak appels, Two spoonfuls of Coperas, putt all these ingredients into a glass bottle with a wide mouth, let it stand in ye sun or some hot closett & you have a very good ink, there must be 2 spoonfuls of Gunpowder!"

As related by Kate Strong "She was not too busy to enjoy riding with her husband,...I



Historian Kate Strong drawing by Carol Petty. Photo courtesy Three Village Historical society

imagine they had fine horses. I know their saddles were covered with velvet. They went to the South Shore not only to enjoy the ocean breezes in the summer but on business."

When William "Tangier" died in 1705, the Smith children included Henry, later second Lord of the Manor, age 26; Mrs. Martha Heathcote, age 23; Jeane, age 17; William Henry, later to inherit the south shore manor house and estate, age 15; Gloryana, later to marry the Rev. George Muirson, age 14; and Charles Jeffery, who would die of smallpox in 1715, age 11. Lady Martha was now faced with raising her young family and running her late husband's vast holdings and business interests.

Entries in the Pigskin Book had been started by William Smith as an estate account book of farm transactions, the Indian whaling crews and the amount of whale "Ogle" and "Bane..." The entries began in 1697, as detailed by Dr. John Strong, "From 1696 until 1721, the Smiths used the book to keep the accounts of Native Americans working for their whaling company... Lady Martha Smith, for the 1706-07 whaling season made a net profit of 120 barrels of whale oil out of 180 barrels, a sizable profit."

"Off shore whaling was a fine business in those days and Madam Martha had her own whaleboat," Kate Strong wrote. "The crew was mostly Indians. She kept her records in a second pigskin book, which was almost lost in the San Francisco fire. A member of the family had taken it west. During the fire, a gentleman saw a trunk which had fallen from a truck and examined the contents. Finding the pigskin book he restored it to its owner. I once held the book in my hands. It was after a small

luncheon at Miss Ruth W. Smith's at Mastic. After the luncheon she handed me the book and said I could go in the other room and make what notes I wanted. Alas, a member of the party followed me in there and, while we had a nice talk on mutual ancestors, I never had a chance to open the book."

As detailed in "Bellport and Brookhaven," published in 1968, "The Lady Martha, was a remarkable woman... managing not only the vast estate, but carrying on the whaling business successfully."

Also noted by Kate Strong, "Fifteen Indians, the whaling crew, are listed by name; their wages, and the charges made against them,

for shot, powder, rum, 'cotes,' 'britches,' etc... She must have had trouble controlling them,

for there are quite a few complaints. 'He [Will Bene] got nothing this season, stayed away ten days at a time, when he went to see his Shua. Was a great loss to me.' But there were more cheerful entries too. 'I thanks God, my company killed a yearling whale. Maid 27 barrels ogle.' Listed was the weight in pounds of whalebone from each whale, as well as the number of barrels of oil."

"As to what the early settlers thought of Martha in their plans for the meeting house church," wrote Kate Strong, "they wrote that at the table was to sit no woman of any kind except Madam Martha Smith... She died five years after her husband on September 1, 1709 and was buried beside him on the spot he had chosen overlooking the little bay on the neck, now called Strong's Neck, but we old timers think of it by its real name, St. George's Manor, part of the Manor of St. George."

Beverly Tyler is Three Village Historical Society historian and author of books available from the Three Village Historical Society, 93 North Country Rd., Setauket, NY 11733. Tel: 631-751-3730.

Obituary: Alex Stubberfield

PREPARED BY THE STUBBERFIELD FAMILY

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Alex passed away peacefully in Taos, New Mexico, where he had recently relocated from his East Setauket home to take up a position



Photo courtesy Peter Stubberfield

as planning & e n v i r o n m e n t a l coordinator with the Bureau of Land Management.

Born in Stony Brook, he grew up locally at his family's Poquott home and after Ward Melville High School and an undergraduate degree

from SUNY Brockport he moved to Virginia to commence a significant academic career at Virginia Tech.

Taking in academic secondments along the way to both Stirling University in Scotland and TU Darmstadt in Germany, Virginia Tech awarded him both a master's in philosophy and a second master's in public & international affairs in 2015. He went on to achieve his Ph.D. in social, political, ethical, and cultural thought in 2019, by specializing in environmental politics and working both to understand and evaluate environmental policy. Post-doctorate he worked

at Virginia Tech as an adjunct professor for the Department of Political Science & International Studies where he designed and taught classes on global environmental issues.

Volunteer work included stints with the U.S. Forest Service in Virginia and the U.S. National Park Service here on Long Island at Fire Island National Seashore.

Alex was a great cook, loved to travel and experienced work and leisure throughout the United Kingdom and Europe, Southeast Asia, Japan and Brazil. His passion for the outdoors was expressed through love of hiking and camping in wilderness areas and the beautiful mountains of the Blue Ridge in Virginia.

His tragic death leaves an extended family in both the U.S. and Europe and a very wide circle of close friends whose love and support he valued so much. He is survived by Denise and Peter, his loving mother and father, and his sister Valerie with whom he shared a special bond.

In lieu of flowers, donations are invited in Alex's memory to The Nature Conservancy in Virginia at www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/virginia.

Visitation will be at Moloney Funeral Home, Port Jefferson Station, on Friday, April 19, 2-6 p.m.

A memorial service will be held at Caroline Church, East Setauket, on Saturday, April 20, 10-11 a.m.

Obituaries

Mary Ellen Niciu

PREPARED BY CHRISTINE MACKOWIAK

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Mary Ellen Niciu, 83, of East Setauket passed away March 3 at Sunrise Senior Living in East Setauket where she had been in residence in the Memory Care facility since 2019.

She was born July 10, 1940, in Brooklyn, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Maraia. She married William T. Niciu on July 5, 1964.

Ellen graduated from SUNY Center on Long Island at Oyster Bay, in 1962 with a bachelor of arts in history. Upon her marriage to Bill, Ellen devoted her life to the care and upbringing of her family. She spent much of her time supporting her two daughters' extracurricular interests, highlighted in particular by her volunteer time with The Clarkettes of Port Jefferson.

In the latter portion of her life, Ellen worked for the NYS Department of Labor where her focus was assisting others with obtaining employment. Ellen also volunteered with The Guide Dog Foundation, raising several guide dog puppies.

She was a dedicated daughter and aunt and adored her many cats. Her three grandchildren, Chris, Nicole and Jessica, were the pride of her life, and she reveled in all of their successes. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years and beloved sister Rosanne Maraia. She is survived by her two daughters, Christine Mackowiak of

Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth Niciu of Columbia, South Carolina; her three grandchildren and her brother Michael Maraia.

A celebration of the liturgy of Christian burial was held on March 11 at St. James R.C. Church in East Setauket and interment followed at St. James R.C. cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations would be appreciated in her memory to Good Shepherd Hospice at www.catholichealthli.org.

Susan Bebb Seel

PREPARED BY WYLIE HUNT

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Susan Bebb Seel passed away after an eight-



year battle with cancer on Feb. 29 in Stony Brook, surrounded by a loving family.

Sue was born on March 27, 1950, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was raised by Hellen and Dr. Kenneth Bebb in Wichita Falls, Texas. After living in the Washington, D.C., area,

Sue moved to Stony Brook in 1994. She attended Wichita Falls public schools and graduated from the University of Texas with a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology.

In the D.C. area, she was a founder of Rivendell School. Sue had a vision for unique ways of

educating children. She poured her heart into developing a curriculum that reflected her faith and interest in literature, history, art and music. She was always an avid reader and member of the same book club of lovely ladies in Stony Brook for more than 30 years.

In 1996 she received certification as a life coach and coached clients of all ages. She coached clients at John T. Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson, The Stony Brook School and countless others all over the country. She will be remembered as someone who received life from encouraging and inspiring others. Sue's greatest joy came from relationships with family and friends.

Her motto was "Show up and connect." She did that well and to her fullest capacity even with stage 4 cancer. Sue loved to hear other people's stories and was a shining light to everyone who met her. Her passion and love for people was unsurpassed. Sue and Spencer shared that enthusiasm and compassion in their community outreach and in their business, Made to Move Tennis & Wellness. In conversations with her husband, sharing their faith about God's design for us to be healthy and to move, the name of the club, Made to Move, came into being. Sue loved to move. She was a triathlete, and before she competed in triathlons, she was a tennis player and active every year at summer camp.

As a member of Caroline Episcopal Church in Setauket for 28 years, she was passionate about

music and sang in the choir. Sue also led adult education classes and Bible study; taught Sunday School; volunteered for Vacation Bible School; was active in Long Island Episcopal Cursillo, a program that seeks to grow Christ-centered leaders to fulfill the mission of the church; and made many, many prayer shawls and meals for those in need.

In 2016, before being diagnosed with cancer. she and her husband started The Village Spot, a nonprofit organization committed to helping young people, ages 18 to 30, who might be struggling to find a career or a meaningful place in their communities.

She leaves behind her husband, Spencer Edelbaum; her sons, David and Alex Seel; her daughter-in-law Erin Seel; her grandchildren, Ian and Eliza Seel; her cousins, Carolyn Kelly, Beth Russell, Louise Ratz and her second cousin, Susan Hernly Reed. Sue was preceded in death by her parents, Hellen and Kenneth Bebb, and her brother, Richard Bebb.

A memorial service will be held at Caroline Episcopal Church, 1 Dyke Road, Setauket, on Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. The service will be live streamed, with the link on the church's website: www.carolinechurch.net..

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Rivendell School, 2410 N. Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22205; Caroline Episcopal Church, 1 Dyke Road, Setauket, NY 11733; or GIST Cancer Research Fund at gistinfo.org.

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CASES WILL BE HEARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD.

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The GOTOMEETING link and instructions will be available on the Village of Poquott website prior to the public hearing or accessed by dialing: +1 (872) 240-3212

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Copies of the Tentative Budget will be available at the office of the Village Clerk, 45 Birchwood Avenue, Village of Poquott, during normal working hours beginning March 28, 2024.

Dated: March 12, 2024

Jessica Battani Village Clerk Village of Poquott 45 Birchwood Ave. Poquott, New York 11733

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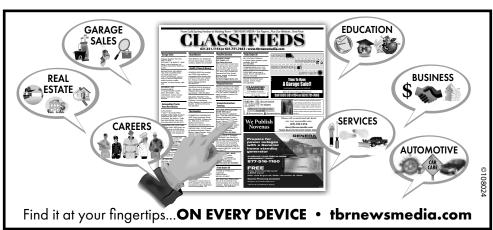
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Editorial

Supporting our lifelines — the crucial role of local emergency services

Within any community, there exist unsung heroes whose dedication and selflessness stand as pillars of strength, ready to respond in times of crisis. Among these heroes are the brave people who serve in our local emergency service organizations.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals who often work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our safety and well-being.

The landscape of volunteerism in our local emergency services is shifting, and not necessarily for the better. Across the state, we are witnessing a decline in the number of volunteers stepping forward to serve their communities. In 2023, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York reported ranks dropping by more than 30% statewide from 110,000 to under 80,000 in the past 20 years.

This trend poses a significant challenge as our population continues to grow, placing an increased demand on emergency services.

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians have long been the backbone of our emergency response system, providing support ranging from medical crises to natural disasters. Their presence in our neighborhoods not only enhances our safety but also fosters a sense of unity and solidarity among residents.

Yet, as the demands on these services increase, the pool of volunteers is dwindling. The reasons behind this decline are multifaceted. Modern lifestyles often leave little room for the commitment required by volunteer emergency responders. Additionally, stringent training requirements and the inherent risks associated with the role can deter potential volunteers.

The ramifications of this decline in volunteerism are far-reaching. Shortages in staffing can lead to longer response times during emergencies, potentially jeopardizing lives and property. Moreover, the strain on existing volunteers can lead to burnout and reduced effectiveness in delivering timely aid.

We must recognize the importance of supporting our local emergency service organizations. First responders put their lives on the line day in and day out to keep our communities safe. Now more than ever, as our population burgeons and the need for emergency services grows, we must rally behind these invaluable organizations.

One solution lies in fostering a culture of volunteerism within our communities. By promoting awareness and appreciation for the vital role played by volunteer firefighters and EMTs, we can inspire more individuals to step forward and serve. More programs such as those offered by Port Jefferson EMS would help.

Furthermore, we must invest in the training and resources necessary to equip our emergency service organizations for success. Adequate funding and support from state and local governments are essential in ensuring that our firefighters and EMTs have the tools and training they need to excel in their roles.

We have a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of our communities. Supporting our local emergency service organizations is not just a civic duty, it is a moral imperative.

Letters to the Editor

Quality education is the answer, not grade reorganization

Anthony Dattero in his Opinion piece entitled "Preserving what works in 3V school district" [The Village Times Herald, March 14] finds that "the notion of transitioning to a common middle school model is, frankly, mind-boggling and irresponsible." I do not.

Preserving what works in the Three Village school district is no different from what works in any school district and has no relation to grade organization. What works well begins with a capable teacher with every student. Add capable support staff, effective administrators, budget support and an engaged community providing safe learning places — they make quality education possible.

I was with Commack school district from 1973-88 during which time the pupil enrollment fell from 15,000 students to 6,000. Thirteen of 21 schools were closed and the grade organization changed from K-6, 7-9, 10-12 to its current K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 organization. There were hostile public meetings, threatened lawsuits and negative press. There also was a resolute board of education that made wise decisions about present and future space needs.

The change in grade organization did not change the quality of education in Commack. It would not do so in Three Village either.

Forrest McMullen South Setauket

The majority wins in a democracy

We are about to vote to confirm or change the people who comprise the majority of state and federal elected officials. Unfortunately, most of our information about the people who are running for office we get from the television news media, which is motivated by building an audience that they can sell to advertisers. This is true for virtually all news media outlets. The owners and senior management of the news media know that "hate and discontent" builds the largest audience so they emphasize "hate and discontent" in their reporting. These people don't want their audience to be reasonable and rational — they want you to be angry. They want you to march on the Capitol when the vote doesn't come out your way. Don't give them what they want. We live in a democracy so, right or wrong, the majority wins. If you don't like the rules, get off your butt and engage in the hard work that it takes to change them. That requires ignoring the media and learning how to change the state and federal rules. The most important of these rules are called the constitutions. It requires getting involved, at the grassroots level, in picking who will ultimately run for office. Accept that in this endeavor, as I said before, in a democracy, the majority wins.

> Francis G. Gibbons Sr. Terryville

Supporting local journalism

The New York Local Journalism Sustainability Act would provide tax credits to local community based newspapers for hiring local news reporters. It is important to lobby Gov. Kathy Hochul [D], state Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins [D], Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie [D], along with your local state senator and assemblymember to support this critical legislation. Most communities are down to one local daily or weekly newspaper. Newspapers have to deal with increasing costs for newsprint, delivery and distribution as well as reduced advertising revenues and competition from the internet and other news information sources.

Daily newspapers concentrate on international, Washington,

Albany, business and sports stories. They have few reporters covering local neighborhood news. Weekly newspapers fill the void for coverage of local community news.

I'm grateful that you have afforded me the opportunity to express my views via Letters to the Editor, along with others who may have different opinions on the issues of the day.

Albany needs to join us in supporting weekly community newspapers. Readers patronize advertisers, who provide the revenues to help keep the papers in business. Let us hope there continues to be room for everyone, including the Times of Huntington-Northport, Times of Smithtown, Times of Middle Country, Port Times Record, Village Times Herald and Village Beacon Record.

Larry Penner Great Neck

Try to be more responsible

In regard to the letter, "Women are not cattle," published on March 14. Being a woman, I wholeheartedly agree with this. Yet, regardless where anyone stands on abortion, the last sentence totally lost me by quoting lesson No. 1: "Try not to be born with a uterus." Heavy subjects regarding pro-life, anti-choice, etc., should not be taken in jest. Due diligence should have been taken into consideration before blatant sarcasm was quoted with lesson No. 1.

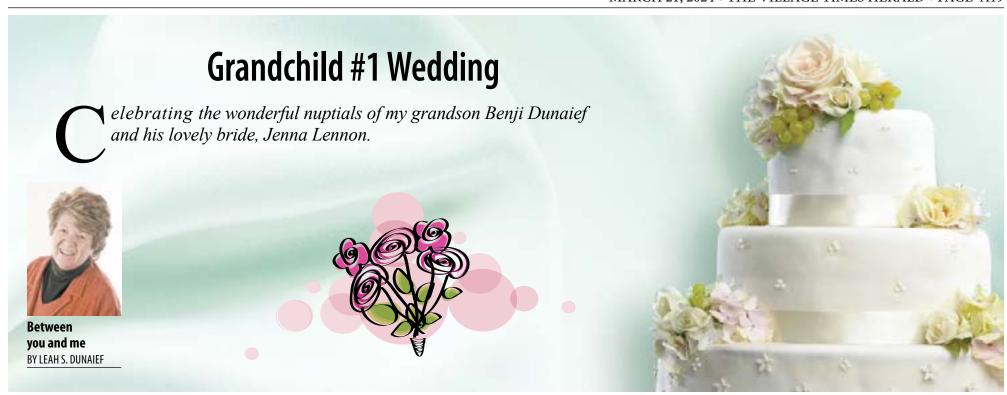
It would have been more admirable and respectful to have simply stated, "Try to be more responsible" — and not get into the program "Financial Literacy for Women" sponsored by Assemblyman Ed Flood [R-Port Jefferson] at the Comsewogue Library by using the venue as a prop or to get an agenda and/or point of view across.

Rhoda Angelier Coram

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Opinion

Sharing a laugh with my long-dead father

was in between that state when I'm focused on how tired I am at the gym and when the Lendorphins kick in, enabling my body to push harder and for longer in the interests of physical fitness and mental health.

When my cell phone rang, I wasn't sure

whether to pick it up. I've



been getting numerous annoying robocalls from pseudo-people who want to sell me something I don't want or need. When I ask them to take my name off their lists, they hang up and someone else from the same organization calls me back the next day.

Unless I recognize the number or am expecting

an important call, I tend to let voicemail pick up while I disconnect from everything but the rhythm of checking the number of calories I've burned and the distance I've traveled during each five minute segment on the elliptical machine.

This time, however, the name looked vaguely familiar, so I stopped moving, took out the airpods that don't work too well and picked up the phone.

"Hi, this is Dan," I said, trying to control my breathing.

"Who is this?" the person asked.

"Dan, why, who is this?" I thought, as I considered disconnecting and returning to my routine.

"I have a number that my wife wrote down on my desk and I wanted to know who this was," he said.

That's when it hit me. The name was familiar because I had written a story a few weeks ago and had reached out to the couple for a comment.

He understood my explanation and asked if I were related to several other Dunaiefs he knew.

"Yup, that's my mother," I said proudly, awaiting words of appreciation and praise for what she's done since she started the newspapers over 47 years ago and become a visible presence in the community.

"And Ivan?" he asked, "That's your father?"

"Indeed," I said.

"Well, I knew him many years ago," he offered. "We worked together."

I nodded and looked around the room to see if anyone were waiting to use the elliptical machine. Fortunately, no one was hovering.

'So, how is he?" he asked.

"Excuse me?" I replied, not sure I heard him correctly.

"How is Ivan doing?"

I hadn't been asked this question in decades.

"He died in 1987," I said, flatly.

"Oh," he said, "1987?"

"Yes," I said.

"Well, we all have to go sometime," he offered. "Some sooner than others, I suppose."

After we ended the call, I resumed my exercise. That seemed like a surprisingly flippant thing to say. The older, current version of me was annoyed, while the younger version felt vulnerable.

Once I built up a solid sweat, a broad smile filled my face, leading at least one person to ponder why I looked unusually pleased during physical exertion.

While I knew the man was processing the not-so-new news, I also decided that the person who would have taken particular delight in this slightly absurd conversation was my father.

With my legs pumping away, I shared a laugh with my father, who could make me smile no matter how frustrated or annoyed I was as a teenager.

Over time, I have enjoyed any number of opportunities to connect with people I've had the privilege of knowing who have died, sometimes through dreams or by watching, hearing or experiencing something I know they'd appreciate.

Recently, after my mother-in-law died, my wife received a set of wind chimes with her mother's name inscribed on them. Before we placed the chimes, we rarely had much wind. Now, amid a steady flow of unusual breezes that bring pleasant sounds to our backyard, my wife and I smile at each other.

If we look for it, we can take comfort in the things that help us feel connected to those we've lost.

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