



# The TIMES of MIDDLE COUNTRY

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## The results are in

Voters approve the Middle Country School District budget and elect three Board of Education trustees

**A8**

## Save the Sound releases report on local beaches

The report addresses how increased precipitation diminishes water quality

**A4**

## Focus on Health

Prioritize your mental health



Protect your hearing  
Healthy daily habits  
Keep allergies in check

Healthy smoothie recipes on page B13

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# Rev up the engines



Long Island Cars holds a car show at Flowerfield Fairgrounds, attracting vendors and car enthusiasts — **A19**

Don Heitner(left) with his 1995 Camaro Z28 6 Speed Convertible and Thomas Galicia (right) with his 2017 Dodge Challenger GT.  
Photo by Caroline O'Callaghan

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~Unknown

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# Brianna's Law takes effect

BY SOFIA LEVORCHICK  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

This year, New York State put Brianna's Law into effect, requiring all boaters to possess and carry a New York State-approved boating safety certificate regardless of age.

**SAFETY** Named after Brianna Lieneck, an 11-year-old Long Island girl who was killed in a 2005 boating accident, this law acts as a precautionary measure to teach all boaters safety rules to prevent reckless and dangerous behavior on the water.

Previously, only operators born after Jan. 1, 1978, needed the certificate. Now, all boaters, regardless of age and experience on the water, must obtain the safety certificate.

Assemblywoman Rebecca Kassay (D, NY4) set out an invitation for a course taking place on May 31 at the Setauket Fire Department. It is \$85 for the course with a \$10 fee.

"With our many miles of coastline, my office understands our constituents' close relationship with our waterways," Kassay said. "We are grateful to the Setauket Fire Department for offering their facilities for this event, furthering our shared goal of greater public safety."

Brennen Siele, the senior harbormaster on the North Shore for the Town of Brookhaven, thinks this course requirement is necessary for



Photo courtesy Metro Creative Connection

safe waters. He pointed out that boaters' most common and preventable mistake is lacking the safety equipment they should have on board.

"When we come and check them, it's a surprise to them that they need certain things," Siele said. "So just from a safety standpoint, it seems important that these people take these classes, even if they've been on the water for years."

Safety certification courses were offered before the law was implemented, and some boaters have already taken them.

Chris Zenaty, a Stony Brook boater, took a safety course over 25 years ago when he first started boating. He retok the course last year with his son after his original certification

expired. He thinks that this new law is essential for ensuring safety on the water.

"It makes people more aware of their surroundings," Zenaty said. "Before, you could go out and buy a 50-foot boat with having no experience in boating and cause significant damage to life and property without having any boating training."

According to both Siele and Kassay, local boaters have generally been reacting positively to the law.

"From conversations around our marinas and neighborhoods, it seems that local boaters are largely on board with this new regulation," Kassay said. "It teaches newer boaters the maritime rules of the road, which will help to

avoid conflicts and collisions."

However, Siele noted that the surge in demand could make it difficult for boaters to get the safety certificate in time.

"I think for the first year, it'll probably be challenging, because a huge influx of people are trying to take these classes right before the boating season," Siele said. "A lot of these classes are filling up, and people are having a hard time getting into them."

Because of the demand, there might be an initial grace period for compliance. Harbor Patrol plans to be somewhat lenient initially, as long as boaters can show patrol officers proof that they are registered to take a class and are otherwise in compliance with safety regulations.

"Boaters need to take the safety on the water a little bit more seriously than they have in the past," Siele said. "They don't take into account how many things that can go wrong or the safety equipment that's necessary when things do go wrong."

Despite the initial challenges in course availability, officials and long-serving boaters agree that the new law marks a crucial step toward fostering safer waters for all.

"Even our saltiest sailors and experienced fisherfolk understand that their time on the water is made safer by every motorized vessel operator taking this course," Kassay said.

## Enhancing mesothelioma diagnosis and treatment for New York veterans through a national registry

BY JONATHAN SHARP  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The long history of the U.S. military's heavy reliance on asbestos — a naturally occurring mineral — has unfortunately left a lasting effect on the health of veterans,

**VETERANS** especially those in New York. Although the use of this material in the military setting has already been discontinued, former service members still deal with the severe and often delayed impacts of exposure, including mesothelioma — a rare yet aggressive form of cancer. The problem, however, is not just the diagnosis of this lethal disease but the failure to respond to it promptly because of the frequent misdiagnosis. A national mesothelioma registry could address this issue as this targeted data-driven approach would track and screen at-risk veterans to make sure those affected receive accurate diagnoses and immediate care.

**Detrimental impact of mesothelioma on veterans**

Mesothelioma is a cancer attacking the protective covering of the lungs, abdomen or heart. It is caused almost exclusively by exposure to asbestos — a natural mineral

once extensively utilized in construction, shipbuilding and military equipment because of its heat and chemical resistance. Even though most use of this mineral was banned since July 1989, it remains a persistent threat to veterans working in contaminated environments.

New York is one of the many states severely affected by this issue. A map by the Asbestos Nation shows that between 1999 and 2017, the state logged 15,205 asbestos-related deaths, of which 2,830 were mesothelioma cases. Suffolk County, in particular, reported 1,386 fatalities. And while mesothelioma poses hazards to anyone exposed, veterans remain among the most vulnerable populations.

True to this, the Purple Heart Foundation revealed that 30% of the nearly 3,000 Americans diagnosed with this disease yearly are former service members. Such a danger is mainly attributed to the extensive use of asbestos on military bases like Suffolk County Air Force Base and Francis S. Gabreski Airport. Such a crisis calls for continued attention and support for those directly impacted.

**Cost of misdiagnosis and delayed treatment**

Among the most critical concerns in

addressing mesothelioma in veterans is the high rate of misdiagnosis. Recent statistics posted by Mesothelioma Guide indicate that 80.8% of stage 1 cases were inaccurate, while 69.5% of stage 2 diagnoses were wrong. Similarly, 35.4% of stage 3 patients and 12.8% of those at stage 4 also received erroneous findings. These missteps often lead to delayed treatments, which can significantly reduce the chances of patients' survival.

One primary reason for these misdiagnoses is the slow development of mesothelioma. Often, its symptoms — such as shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, fever and unintentional weight loss — do not appear until the disease has reached an advanced stage, which makes treatment and recovery both challenging. In addition, the delay in recording new mesothelioma cases, which may take up to two years per the Federal Register, contributes to the problem. Such a reality calls for a systemic approach aiming for early detection and better patient outcomes.

**Systemic approach to combat misdiagnosis**

A national mesothelioma registry could be the key to reversing the trends of misdiagnosis — being a centralized database that allows health care providers

to monitor susceptible individuals and invite them for screenings for early diagnoses and appropriate treatments.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense already have the structure to materialize this initiative as they already maintain registries for diseases linked to burn pits and Agent Orange. What they need now is to collaborate with vital stakeholders to get additional expertise and insights that could help the federal government integrate a national mesothelioma registry into the existing health care system. Such an endeavor would likewise be beneficial to researchers intending to track disease progression to lower the misdiagnosis rate and develop more effective treatments.

The impact of mesothelioma on veterans is a long-standing concern that has yet to be fully addressed. A national mesothelioma registry could nevertheless tackle this health crisis proactively — seeing to it that those who served our country are correctly diagnosed and benefit from timely care.

*Jonathan Sharp serves as the CFO of the Environmental Litigation Group P.C., a firm in Birmingham, AL, assisting victims with environmental toxic exposure cases.*



# Save the Sound releases report card for 2022-2024

BY SABRINA ARTUSA  
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On May 20, Save the Sound, an environmental organization that analyzes the water quality of the Long Island Sound, compiled data revealing updated scores of beaches along Long Island’s coastline. The biennial report focuses on beach water quality, bacteria levels and swimming safety.

The report was launched at a conference at Centerport Beach, with Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth (R) and Cornell Cooperative representatives present as Save the Sound Vice President of the Center for Water Protection David Ansel presented the grades, challenges and solutions for the Long Island Sound water quality.

Using data collected by the departments of health that conduct the beach monitoring, the beach report department of health, the beach report revealed an increase in wet weather that led to a decline in water quality. Consistently, samples collected within 48 hours of a quarter-inch or more of rainfall revealed diminished water quality. Indeed, there was an overall increase in samples that failed to meet state standards for bacteria concentration (including beaches in Connecticut).

The grades, ranging from an F to an A+, are determined based on the presence of enterococcus bacteria. Swimmers can become sick if they swim in waters with unsafe concentrations of this fecal indicator bacteria. A failing sample contains 104 colony forming units per 100 ml.

New York City and other areas surrounding the part of the Long Island Sound known as “the narrows” continue to

## Suffolk County beach grades

Grades taken from Save the Sound’s 2025 Long Island Sound Beach Report

Location	2022	2023	2024
Huntington Beach Assoc.	B-	B-	B
Centerport Beach	A+	A-	B-
Steers Beach	C	C+	C
Asheroken Beach	C	C+	A-
Crab Meadow Beach	B-	B-	C
Sunken Meadow State Park	A+	A+	C-
Sunken Meadow State Park East	A-	A+	B+
Short Beach	B	A+	B
Nissequogue Point Beach	B-	B+	B-
Long Beach	B+	A+	C+
West Meadow Beach	B-	B-	C+
Sound View Beach Assoc.	B+	A+	A+
Schubert Beach	B	A-	B
Stony Brook Beach	B	B	B
Old Field Club	B	C	B-
Hobart Beach (bay)	B+	A	A-

Location	2022	2023	2024
Lloyd Harbor Village Park	B+	A+	B-
Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club	B	B	B-
West Neck Beach	B+	A	A
Lloyd Harbor Estates	A	A	B
Bayview Beach	B	A+	A+
Bayberry Cove Beach	B	B+	A+
Little Bay Beach	B+	A+	B
Belle Terre Beach	A-	A-	A-
Port Jefferson Beach W	A+	A-	A-
Port Jefferson Beach E	A-	B-	A-
Cedar Beach West	A-	B-	A+
Cedar Beach East	A-	B	A-
Miller Place Beach	B+	C+	B-
Woodhull Landing	B	C+	B+
Scotts Beach	A-	C	B
Beech Road beach	B-	C-	C
Broadway Beach	B+	C+	C-
Shoreham Village Beach	B+	B	B-
Shoreham Beach	A-	A-	B
Wading River Beach	B+	B+	A-

receive low grades as the water is less often flushed out as opposed to beaches in eastern Suffolk County.

Samples taken after precipitation contained higher levels of the bacteria suggest that pollutants are getting washed into the water. Ansel said “green infrastructure” can help. Paved areas do not allow for storm water absorption, instead leading runoff, and all the pollutants like oil and debris it picks up on the way, to run straight to the water.

“We have seen high incidents of wet weather in the last number of

years and we believe it is having a negative effect on the scores for the beaches. In our last beach report 78% of the beaches received As and Bs. In this year’s report 72% of the beaches are receiving As and Bs,” Ansel said, adding that we are coming off the wettest two-year stretch with 44 inches of rain.

Animal waste is a big contributor to the presence of the bacteria in the water. Cleaning garbage, maintaining sewers and planting native plants can help minimize fecal-bacteria contamination.

Ansel is active in advocating for solutions that would improve the Sound. The same day of the conference, he traveled to Albany to testify that more data is needed regarding algal blooms in saline water.

“We are hopeful that there will be a conversion of Rikers Island to a water treatment facility that would have a materially positive impact on the Western Narrows of New York City and New York Sound.”

Smyth said the town began harvesting sugar kelp in 2022 and implemented a

program for spawning oysters, which help filter the water. Huntington even supplies other municipalities with oysters shell stock to grow.

“The sugar kelp is native to Long Island and requires little to no effort to grow in Long Island’s bays and harbors. The benefit is it improves water quality by removing harmful nitrogen which causes algae blooms,” Smyth said.

Deputy Supervisor John McCarron said they harvest the kelp and grind it to a powder, which is then used as fertilizer.

Although the town has only been harvesting sugar kelp for three years, McCarron said he has noticed positive growth with marine wildlife diversity, with various species of fish dwelling by the kelp. The presence of wildlife seemed like a good sign. “This means it is doing something to clean up the area,” he said.

High scoring beaches include Port Jefferson beach and Cedar Beach West, which had an A- and A+ respectively.



David Ansel, vice president for the Center for Water Protection, presenting the report’s results at a press conference on May 20. Photo by Sabrina Artusa



# History Close at Hand: A place to relax

BY BEVERLY C. TYLER  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

As the shipbuilding era was ending in Stony Brook and East Setauket in the 1870s, the Long Island Railroad was completing the North Shore Line to Port Jefferson. The coming of the railroad made it possible for people and products to travel quickly overland and opened the Three Village area to tourism, especially from New York City.

Until the railroad came, most travel and commerce to and from Long Island ports was conducted by ship. As the railroad became more efficient and reliable, tourism began to increase, especially during the summer months. Hotels, tourist homes and summer cottages opened in Stony Brook and Setauket, as they did throughout Long Island, to accommodate the influx of visitors.

By 1902, there were six hotels or tourist homes in Stony Brook and ten in Setauket-East Setauket which offered weekly rates. In Stony Brook, the Pine View House, run by Israel Hawkins, advertised as a family recreation summer boarding house with accommodations for 25 guests. Guests at the Pine View had the use of a beach house at West Meadow Beach.

In East Setauket, Shore Acres was a large boarding house overlooking Setauket Harbor. Shore Acres was run by Mr. and Mrs. William D. Oakes and had 30 rooms and one bathroom with a wash basin in each room. "In the large dining room on Sundays, the meal was usually chicken, slaughtered on Saturday evening, fresh garden vegetables and homemade ice cream." (Long Island Museum 1981 exhibit Summer at the Shore). Boating and bathing were popular activities during these summers and Shore Acres had its own docks and boats for the use of guests. As noted by Barbara Russell, "Later, Mr. Oakes had a motorboat and would take boarders over to Whitehall Beach to spend afternoons." (Down the Ways - The Wooden Ship Era)

In Setauket, the Lakeside House, now the Setauket Neighborhood House, had accommodations for 25 guests at \$6.00 to \$8.00 per week. The Lakeside House was run by my grandfather Captain Beverly Swift Tyler.

In 1879, he was master and 3/8 owner of the "Willow Harp". She was a coastal schooner and carried coal from New Jersey to East Setauket. Beginning about the turn of the century, Captain Tyler, who then spent much of his time running the Lakeside House, would take guests on sailing outings on his catboat "Madeline" which was anchored in Setauket Harbor.

After he married my grandmother Edith Griffin in 1912, who first came to Setauket to



stay a week at the Lakeside House with her sister Carolyn, she became the Lakeside hostess and manager of the kitchen and boarding house staff. Lucy Hart Keyes, born 1900, commented that she worked at the Lakeside house as a young girl and that Mrs. Tyler was "an easy person to work for."

In 1906, my grandfather built the catboat "Setauket" in an area behind the Lakeside House. The "Setauket" was the second boat he built, the first being the "Madeline," which, according to Roger Tyler, Captain Tyler's nephew, "was built with the comments and help of friends and neighbors whose advice he took and later regretted. When the 'Setauket' was being built and comments were again offered, Captain Tyler this time pointed out that the 'Madeline' was their community boat and that he was building the 'Setauket' by himself."

Sailboats and the harbors and inlets of the Three Village area were part of the attractiveness of the community at the turn of the century. Captain Tyler used the "Setauket" to take guests on excursions on the Sound and around Setauket and Port Jefferson Harbors. The "Setauket" was also built to race in local competitions in Port Jefferson Harbor. When the "Setauket" was built, Captain Tyler sold the "Madeline," which was a fairly good racing catboat. Roger Tyler said that the "Setauket" was raced in Port Jefferson and was a consistent



Top: Shore Acres after last expansion ca. 1925. Photo courtesy Barbara Russell

Bottom left: Beverly S. Tyler and Edith Griffin Tyler in 1912. Bottom right: Catboat Setauket rigged with a canopy and engine to take Lakeside House guests on excursions. Sailing made some of the guests nervous, so Capt. Tyler did both sailing and motoring. Photos courtesy Bev Tyler.

winner against all competition including the "Madeline." Tyler commented that, "it got to be so that they wouldn't tell Bev when a race was to be run and a few times he found out about them only just an hour or so before the race, but raced and won anyway."

The tourism era in Setauket and Stony Brook continued strong until World War I. Captain Tyler sold the Lakeside House to Eversley Childs in 1918. Childs, who - the story goes - only wanted the tourist home for

its liquor license, which he transferred to the St. George Golf and Country Club gave the Lakeside House to the community for its use. A number of other tourist homes in the Three Village area continued into the 1930s.

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. <http://www.TVHS.org>



# Editorial



## Swim safely this summer

Beaches and rivers are signature settings of a fun Long Island summer and one of its most attractive features. Water is always within a 40-minute drive, tempting overheated residents with a swim.

Plunging into the crashing waves and relaxing in the cool, refreshing water is wonderfully restorative, but includes some dangers we can't ignore. The ocean and the Long Island Sound are not pools—there isn't a shallow floor to stand on when we tire or side walls to cling to for a break.

Last week, tragedy struck our community after a man drowned in the Nissequogue River by the Kings Park Bluff. Unable to combat the converging waters and powerful waves, the swimmer tired and was overtaken.

When tides become too strong, Smith Point Chief of Lifeguards Kevin Kolar urges us to lie on our backs and swim parallel to the shore. This strategy is essential in both a river or the ocean. The challenge, however, is staying calm during the adrenaline rush of fear after we realize we are further than we intended.

"When [swimmers] are panicked and see themselves moving away from shore, they want to go from point A to B. They don't want to waste their energy going around," he said, adding that resisting the urge to try to push ahead and swim against the tide pulling you out is like stepping into a punch. Instinctually, we want to return to safety as soon as possible.

Many swimmers think we can swim in and through the ripe tide if we use enough power. This will just tire us out. Ripe tides take the form of a mushroom cloud—the current is drawn from the shore in a narrow stem before billowing out for about 30 yards. Lying on our back and gently swimming toward the shore at an angle is key to preventing exhaustion. We should not assume a vertical position, which will cause us to sink "like a needle through skin", as Kolar said. Floating horizontally will prevent us from expending energy simply trying to stay above water.

We need to know our capabilities. Even experienced swimmers are no match for a relentless current. Enjoy the beaches. Have fun in the water, but be prepared, look out for potential rip currents which can be identified by an area with fewer breaking waves or a visible line of seaweed leading outwards. Keep an eye out for others in distress, and swim safely this summer.

# Letters to the Editor

## Learning from Europe

All across Europe, countries have recently been plagued by electrical power blackouts due to unstable sources of renewable energy, primarily from solar arrays and windmills.

The most extensive blackout was experienced in the Iberian Peninsula, including Spain and Portugal, as well as portions of Southern France. The determination of the exact cause of the problem is quite complex, partly attributable to the interaction of the various energy supplies, which include wind, solar, nuclear, natural gas and hydroelectric sources. Many experts are concerned about the problem of inertia, which is provided by systems with large rotating mechanical assemblies, or flywheels, such as conventional electromechanical generators, but is not found in typical renewable systems, employing solar, wind or lithium-ion battery sources. High levels of inertia tend to keep the AC voltage frequency, which is nominally 50 Hz in Europe (60 Hz in the United States), at a relatively constant value, thereby providing a high degree of stability to the electrical grid system. With large proportions of renewable energy sources, the system inertia is significantly reduced, leading to pronounced instabilities and eventual system failure.

As a result of this and other blackout problems, notably in Germany, most European countries are beginning to reevaluate their current energy policies, which have had goals of achieving 100% reliance on renewable energy sources. Denmark, for example, outlawed nuclear power in 1985 but is now considering a reversal of this policy.

Here in the United States, [in] the home of beautiful Suffolk County, we are at the tip of the energy iceberg. In 1973, we got off to a great start with the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. Unfortunately, we had a governor whose shortcomings included a pronounced lack of foresight and who made sure that the Shoreham reactor was decommissioned and never put into service. Hopefully, here in 2025, we will be able to learn from the mistakes of others. We should honestly consider the pros and cons of each type of system and choose the one that is the best overall.

*George Atemose  
Setauket*

## Do more for Medicaid

In a recent letter to the editor ["Thank you," May 15, 2025], a reader thanked Rep. Nick LaLota [R, NY1] for signing on to a letter in support of Medicaid. Unfortunately, Mr. LaLota's voting record on this issue tells a different story. Mr. LaLota voted for a budget proposal that cuts Medicaid by hundreds of billions of dollars. Mr.

LaLota claims that he's interested in rooting out "waste, fraud, and abuse" and that these cuts will not harm those who rely on Medicaid. However, a recent report from the Fiscal Policy Institute refutes this claim. FPI notes that a cut is a cut, and that these cuts will disproportionately impact older adults and disabled people.

Mr. LaLota has suggested mandating work requirements for Medicaid, claiming that this will root out "fraud and abuse." However, the proposed work requirements suggested by Mr. LaLota and the GOP have been proven to be expensive to administer, kick sick people off Medicaid and ultimately do not save a great deal of money. The people kicked off Medicaid will likely not find other coverage and ultimately wind up uninsured, which will result in our communities being less healthy.

Mr. LaLota is claiming there is "waste" in Medicaid, while in fact Medicaid is one of the most efficient ways to deliver health care. According to Medicaid Matters New York, over 148,000 constituents in the first congressional district are covered by Medicaid and Child Health Plus. Within that population served by these programs, 29% are children under the age of 19, 18% are seniors over the age of 65 and 13,000 are people with disabilities. Mr. LaLota's vote to cut Medicaid will hit these vulnerable constituents the hardest.

If these cuts are enacted, the first congressional district will lose over \$1.3 billion in Medicaid funds. How can Mr. LaLota justify taking health care away from his most vulnerable constituents to finance tax cuts for billionaires and corporations? We need Mr. LaLota to commit, not just in his words, but in his votes, to prioritize the well-being of his constituents who rely on Medicaid over tax breaks for the wealthy.

*Shoshana Hershkowitz  
South Setauket*

## In response to "Questioning 'Elder Parole' for cop killers" from May 8

As community members, and as people who believe in redemption, we respectfully disagree with the previous letter writer. The Elder Parole bill is a common-sense response to the senseless rise in older adults behind bars identified as a fiscal crisis by the state comptroller. Even as the prison population declined significantly in recent years, the number of older adults behind bars has increased because of extreme sentences and a parole system that prioritizes vengeance above public safety. Rather than spending a fortune to keep people who have completely transformed in a cell as they grow old, get sick and languish, we believe deeply in giving them a chance to be considered for release when they can still work and help support their families.

We understand these issues are deeply emotional for people on all sides, and rightly so, but facts are facts: older adults, including those serving time for violent crimes from long ago, have the lowest recidivism rates, with some age groups almost never returning to prison with new convictions. At the same time, the costs of incarceration skyrocket with age.

None of this is to say the bill would release people simply because of their age. Age isn't even a consideration in the parole laws. But older adults would get the opportunity to make their case and be considered on a case-by-case basis, and we would urge that they be considered fairly based on who they are today, what they have done to change, whether they pose a real risk.

This bill is backed by many of the state's civil rights groups along with crime victim advocates and anti-gun violence experts because allowing people to earn their pathways to release promotes community safety — and because many victims themselves are sadly criminalized. Moreover, the enormous cost savings could be better spent on mental health care, education, support for victims and more.

People can and do change and giving them a bigger reason to do so can only help. We encourage our state legislature to pass the bill this year.

*Deborah Little, Setauket  
Jacqueline Gosdigian, Stony Brook  
Ronni Schultz, Port Jefferson Station*

## An uplifting response to my Memorial Day note

Just before Memorial Day, I sent an email to an old friend of mine, "Thank you for your service."

The day after graduating from high school, Kevin began working as a "runner" on Wall Street. A short time later he was drafted and sent to fight in Vietnam.

A terrific all-around athlete he spent about a year over there, with much of his time serving as the "point" on patrols. After a week's leave in Hong Kong, Kev came back to learn the grim news that the fellow who'd been working "point" in his place had been killed.

Sadly, like so many other vets who returned during that time, my buddy was treated poorly. He like thousands of his fellow servicemen and women, weren't shown the proper appreciation for their sacrifices. Nonetheless, he finished his service by being part of the solemn, often heartbreaking, "Folded Flag Ceremony."

Kevin's response to my note was, a humbling, uplifting, "Thank you. I served proudly for this great country."

*Jim Soviero  
East Setauket*

## 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

The opinions of columnists and letter writers are their own. They do not speak for the newspaper.



# Opinion Hey, graduates! Look for supply and demand imbalances in the real world

Graduates preparing to emerge into what passes for the real world these days need to keep in mind something they studied in introductory economics: supply and demand.

You see, any imbalance creates opportunities and the world outside the academic cocoon has plenty of those.



**D. None of the above**

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

Let's start with supply. We have plenty of anger, frustration, irritation, and hostility. Yes, I know those are emotions, but, really, aren't those in full display regularly and aren't they at the heart of decisions and actions?

Anger and bitterness float around like a dense fog, settling in at the comment section for stories, expressing themselves out the open windows of cars stuck in traffic, and appearing in abundance in long, slow lines at the grocery store, the deli counter, or the dreaded Department of Motor Vehicles.

We also have plenty of absolute certainty, particularly among our fearless leaders at every level. This certainty manifests itself in many ways, as people are convinced they are right, no

alternatives exist, and they can and will prevail over time.

For many of them, the world has returned to a state of black and white, where good and right are on one side and evil and darkness reside on the other. The reality, as many movies, books, and forms of entertainment suggests, is somewhere in between, with a wide spectrum of grey and, if you look for it, magnificent colors.

These same leaders are neither particularly good winners or particularly good losers, not that some of them would admit to losing anything anyway.

We also have innumerable entertainers, who collect followers like Pied Pipers with their flutes, sharing videos, ideas, and whatever else brings in viewers. They need followers and, with people eager to stay plugged in to the latest compelling popular culture, the people seem to need these attractions.

With such a high supply of followers, you don't need to be just another one in a long list.

We have no shortage of people willing to offer advice and second guess anyone and everyone else. From their couch, sports commentators always somehow know better.

We also have plenty of electronic, artificial and technological systems that aren't working as well as we, and the companies that use them,

would like. That's a supply of inefficiencies with a demand for improvements.

I can't tell you how many times a voice activated system asks me for information, I provide it, the system repeats it and then the whole process starts over again, without getting closer to a real person or a resolution. These systems have bad days far too often.

Okay, now, on the demand side, we need more people who listen carefully and closely and who can learn in and on their jobs.

These days, people who find solutions, take responsibility and represent any business well are in shorter supply. Plenty of people seem indifferent to disgruntled customers, waiting for a better job to come along while they allow themselves to do work they don't find particularly rewarding or compelling.

We also have a demand for listeners. With all the frustrations and disappointments out there, sometimes people don't need anything more than someone who can listen to and acknowledge them.

On the demand side, the need for questions is extraordinarily high. When recent graduates don't know or understand something, they can and should ask.

An answer along the lines of, "well, we do that because that's the way it's always been

done," offers an opportunity to improve on a process, an idea, an approach or an interaction.

The demand for people who can disagree effectively, can show respect, and can bring people together is extraordinarily high.

We don't all need to agree on everything and to nod our heads like artificial intelligence automatons. We need people who can bring us together and keep us focused on shorter and longer term goals.

The need for positivity, solutions and great ideas is high. We live in an incredible country with a fascinating mix of opportunities, people, narratives, and potential.

Be prepared to use some of the ways of thinking you learned in college. When the majority of people are going right, consider what going left might mean and vice versa.

Other people might have their habits, patterns and routines, but you don't have to adapt them as your own immediately. Be prepared to offer something new.

Your fresh perspective through eyes that haven't seen a process occur repeatedly can and should be an advantage.

Yes, you might be a rookie in a new job or a new program, but that can mean that the demand for your insights can make you a valuable and welcome addition to any team.

## New Orleans provided graduation, prison escapes & all that jazz

It wasn't easy getting to The Big Easy last Thursday. On our way to my youngest grandson's graduation from college, we were leaving from JFK in the afternoon, and there were delays all along the way. Even after we finally got to the departure gate and onto



**Between you and me**

BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

the plane, we were held on the tarmac for almost two hours, taxiing from runway to runway, until the pilot was given the signal to take off.

A consolation was the relatively smooth three-hour flight. The ride to the hotel, in the dark, took about half an hour and was made pleasant by an interesting driver. Originally from the Ukraine, he filled us in on his immigration tribulations and his family's situation back home. Although hungry when we arrived, we

were more exhausted and fell right into bed.

We were well rewarded the next morning. One by one, with lots of hugging, the family connected with us at the Bearcat Cafe, one of the best breakfast restaurants I have ever had the pleasure of eating in.

Now, New Orleans does have a fine reputation for eateries, so perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised. The clever pairings of offerings, the way the dishes were prepared and the joyful manner of the wait staff in serving us were unparalleled. So if you find yourself in NOLA, you know where to go to start your day in fine style.

We returned to the hotel and changed for the first of the two graduation ceremonies. Did I mention the heat? Yes, we knew it would be hot in Louisiana, and it didn't disappoint. It was both oppressively hot and humid for me. I should explain that I am generally more comfortable in the cold, so I hastened from one air conditioned location to the next, where it was often too cold for some. But those were the extremes of the city.

The ceremonies were in Caesars Superdome, which was both huge and cool. We took our seats high above and far from the stage, and watched the graduates file in like ants below, wearing their black robes and caps, as jazz music played. Each student's name was called, and he or she in turn walked across the stage to shake the hand of the patient college official. We waited with interest to hear how our name would inevitably be mangled, a common consequence at all family graduations. Surprisingly, it was not. All the visitors did their best to utter loud, congratulatory cheers for their graduating loved ones, and we made sufficient noise to be heard by our grandson as he accepted his diploma.

The second ceremony, for the entire university, was not until the following night, and so we had time to explore the city. Several of us had been there before, so we passed up Bourbon Street, although I made sure to enjoy a beignet at the branch of Cafe du Monde on the Riverwalk. Instead, we went to The Fly along the bank of the Mississippi River, sat in a small gazebo, and

watched the muddy waters rush by.

The River was almost two miles across at that point, and several tankers and tug boats traveled stately past in either direction. It occurred to me that I had never seen the Mississippi before, and since I had just recently finished reading "James," a highly decorated novel that is a take off on "Huckleberry Finn," the scene was populated by Mark Twain's characters in my imagination. Additionally, several residents were cooking crawfish nearby in a big kettle, and the smells were delightful. They offered us a taste, in that polite Southern fashion; the crustacean was too spicy for me.

Also spicing up the trip was the news of 10 escaped prisoners, five of whom have now been recaptured. One was found in a fancy hotel, clearly a man of good taste.

We did drive through the Garden District, impressed by the historic homes, and we viewed the house in which our grandson lived near the campus. We left the city and its bananas foster reluctantly, for there was much more to see.



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# Eight drivers cited, six vehicles impounded for drag racing in Medford

Suffolk County Police cited eight drivers for allegedly doing reckless activities in their vehicles, including drifting and burnouts, and impounded six vehicles on May 15 in Medford.

A 911 caller reported drag racing activities in progress on National Boulevard near Munsell Road in Medford at 9:50 p.m.

Members of the Street Racing Task Force were first to arrive on the scene and observed approximately eight vehicles engaging in reckless behavior and spectating. All vehicles were stopped safely. All involved drivers were issued multiple citations, thirty-eight in total.

The following drivers were issued citations and had their vehicles seized:

- Joseph Castiglione, 21, of Lindenhurst, who was driving a 2004 Infinity
- Daniel Barbarito, 27, of Wantagh, who was driving a 2010 Camaro
- James Jahn, 21, of Sound Beach, who was driving a 2006 Infinity



Photo from SCPD

- Daniel Chavez, 23, of Bay Shore, who was driving a 2012 Infinity
  - G. Gonzalez, 21, of Bay Shore, who was driving a 2006 Ford Mustang
  - Emanuel Lopez, 19, of Riverhead, who was driving a 2004 Infinity
- The following drivers were issued citations:
- Rahman-Bailey, 22, of Bay Shore, who was driving a 2016 BMW
  - Shawn Abbate, 22, of Deer Park, who was driving a 2023 Hyundai
- All eight drivers will be arraigned at First District Court in Central Islip on June 4.

# POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

## 4 people injured in Farmingville crash

A multivehicle crash involving a Suffolk County police vehicle on May 16 in Farmingville left four people injured.

Responding to a call with its lights and sirens activated, a police vehicle was traveling westbound on Horseblock Road in Farmingville, when a vehicle attempted to turn right at the intersection of Old Medford Avenue and the vehicles crashed on May 16 at 5:08 p.m. The civilian vehicle then crashed into a pole and another vehicle. Debris from the crash struck a fourth vehicle, shattering a window and damaging the hood.

Drivers of all four vehicles were transported to local hospitals for treatment of injuries. Their identities were not released.

## Man found dead in Nissequogue River

Suffolk County Police Homicide Squad detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man found in Kings Park last week.

Marine Bureau officers responded to a 911 call reporting a man in distress in the Nissequogue River on May 12 at 7:49 p.m. A witness at the scene said he waded into the water before being swept away from the shore. He began waving his hands, signaling distress.

The witness said a man jumped in to help, but the victim was too far. During a search of the area, an adult male was found deceased on May 14 in the Nissequogue River, near Old Dock Road, at approximately 6:40 p.m.

The man was pronounced at the scene by a physician assistant from the Office of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. Following a preliminary investigation, detectives believe the cause of death to be non-criminal in nature. The man's identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

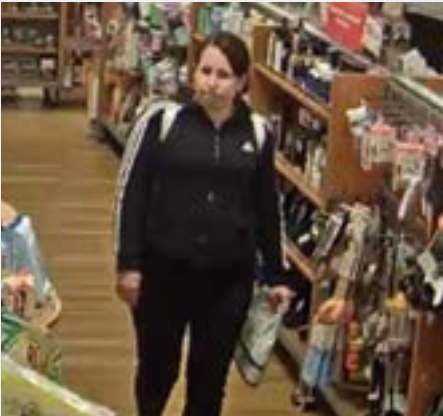
Anyone with information is asked to call 631-852-6392.

## Two people killed in Manorville crash

Suffolk County Police Seventh Squad detectives are investigating a single-vehicle crash that killed two people in Manorville on May 17.

A 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt was traveling eastbound on the Long Island Expressway, near Exit 70, when it left the roadway, crashed into the woods, and caught fire at approximately 10:05 p.m. The driver was ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger was found dead in the vehicle after the fire was extinguished.

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this woman? Photo from SCPD

## Wanted for alleged 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 woman pictured above who allegedly stole approximately \$275 worth of clothing from TJ Maxx, located at 5145 Nesconset Highway in Port Jefferson Station, on May 5 at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Their identity was not released. Detectives are asking anyone with knowledge of the incident to call 631-852-8752.

## Commack massage parlor raided.

Suffolk County Police arrested a woman for prostitution during a massage parlor raid in Commack on May 15.

In response to numerous community complaints, Second Precinct Crime Section officers, in conjunction with the Tow of Huntington Fire Marshal and Ordinance Inspector, conducted an investigation into New Lisa Beauty, located at 6143 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 207, and arrested Hanzhu Maldonado.

Maldonado, 36, of Flushing, was charged with two counts of alleged Unauthorized Practice of a Profession and one count of Prostitution. The Town of Huntington issued violations to the business. She was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket and is scheduled to appear at First District Court in Central Islip on a later date.

Visit [www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police](http://www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police) for more press releases from the Suffolk County Police.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

# School Budget Results

## Middle Country Central School District

### Budget Vote:

**Yes - 1,511 • No - 568**

### Board of Education results: Three open seats

- ✓Dawn Sharrock- **1,465 votes**
- ✓Robert Feeney- **1,453 votes**
- ✓Robert Hallock- **1,421 votes**



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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# Circuit reliability upgrades begin in Lake Grove

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

PSEG Long Island is improving the reliability of the energy grid in Lake Grove. The storm hardening work on this distribution circuit is part of many system improvements included in the “Power On” program.

“This Power On infrastructure improvement project in Lake Grove is part of PSEG Long Island’s ongoing, multi-year effort to continue to improve electric reliability for customers,” said Peggy Keane, PSEG Long Island’s vice president of Construction and Operations Services. “We are working hard to reduce the number of outages that occur during severe weather by strengthening the electric lines that directly power homes and businesses.”

The work began in early May and is expected to last approximately one month. PSEG Long Island’s licensed and approved contractors will work along distribution lines in Lake Grove. To ensure traffic moves safely, PSEG Long Island will provide cones, flaggers and signage at the worksites as needed. Local officials will also be notified in advance regarding any potential traffic concerns.

The work began in early May and is expected to last approximately one month. PSEG Long Island’s licensed and approved contractors will work along distribution lines in Lake Grove. To ensure traffic moves safely, PSEG Long Island will provide cones, flaggers and signage at the worksites as needed. Local officials will also be notified in advance regarding any potential traffic concerns.

The storm-hardening improvements include:

- Stronger poles: PSEG Long Island will replace some existing utility poles with stronger, more durable poles that are capable of withstanding winds up to 135 mph. The new poles will be approximately the same height as the existing poles, have a stronger base and will be placed no more than 5 feet from the current pole locations. PSEG Long Island will actively coordinate the removal of old poles with other utilities and municipalities.

- Narrow profiles: To help wires deflect falling limbs instead of catching them, PSEG Long Island will be installing shorter cross arms atop some poles.

- Stronger wire: Current wire will be replaced with more resilient and durable wire.

- Upgrading: PSEG Long Island will upgrade or replace worn equipment as necessary.

Crews will be working on the following streets in Lake Grove:

- Glen Way between Parsnip Pond Road and Bea Street
- Bea Street East of Sarah Drive
- Sy Court East of Sarah Drive
- Sarah Drive between Bea Street and Hy Place

- Hy Place between Sarah Drive and Gould Drive

PSEG Long Island prepares year-round for extreme weather to maintain reliable service for approximately 1.2 million customers. Since 2014, the company has made significant investments in strengthening the electric infrastructure. Using funding from both FEMA and LIPA, PSEG Long Island has completed storm hardening and reliability work on more than 1,000 miles of distribution mainline circuits.

Power On, a program that started in the spring of 2020, continues the work now that the FEMA program has concluded. Since the launch of Power On, more than 420 miles of the most vulnerable distribution mainline and branch line circuits on Long Island and in the Rockaways have been storm hardened with stronger poles, thicker wire and other modern equipment.

These investments have strengthened the system so that fewer customers experience outages and, when they do occur, the duration is shorter, especially during extreme weather. Excluding catastrophic storms, from the first quarter of 2024 through the first quarter of 2025, the sections of circuits that PSEG



File photo

Long Island has storm-hardened have seen a 39% reduction in damage leading to outages, compared with the rest of the distribution system.

Power On focuses on mainline circuits, the backbone of the distribution system. The main lines feed the many branch lines that power the homes and businesses in individual communities.

For more project details, visit [psegliny.com/inthecommunity/currentinitiatives/stormhardeningprojects](https://psegliny.com/inthecommunity/currentinitiatives/stormhardeningprojects).

## LEGALS

To Place A Legal Notice  
Email: [legals@tbrnewsmedia.com](mailto:legals@tbrnewsmedia.com)

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 MAY 27, 2025 (BZA CONFERENCE ROOM – 1ST FLOOR) AT 4:00 P.M., 2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, **MAY 28, 2025** (2ND FLOOR AUDITORIUM) COMMENCING **AT 2:00 P.M.** (THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED OVER THE INTERNET AT <https://brookhavenny.portal.civicclerk.com>, TO CONSIDER THE MATTERS LISTED BELOW AND 3. A WORKSESSION ON MAY 28, 2025, (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 PERMITS TO DISCUSS THE DECISION CALENDAR

**TIMES OF  
MIDDLE COUNTRY**

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

42. Frank & Margot Cercone, 156 Blue Point Rd., Selden, NY. Location: West side Blue Point Rd. 100'

North of Hollywood Ave., Selden. Applicant requests front yard setback, rear yard and minimum and total side yard variances for proposed one story residence addition; rear yard variance for existing one story residence addition; permission for existing outside cellar entrance exceeding 5 ft. permitted encroachment (7 ft.); also, permission to exceed 15% lot occupancy permitted (31.09%). (0200 52000 0300 033000)

CASES WILL BE HEARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD.

HOWARD M. BERGSON  
CHAIRMAN

272620 5/22 1x tmc

### LEGAL NOTICE

**TO THE TAXPAYERS OF THE SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that a resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT, Town of Brookhaven, County of Suffolk, State of New

York, on the 13th day of May 2025, subject to a permissive referendum as provided for by Section 6(g) of the General Municipal Law.

An extract of the resolution is as follows:

The SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT maintains a Capital Reserve Fund designated as the Capital Reserve Fund for Buildings and Grounds, Grounds Maintenance, Repairs and Capital Improvements known as Capital Reserve #1 under Section 6(g) of the General Municipal Law in which account there is sufficient funds to accomplish the purpose hereinafter set forth; namely, design and fabricate custom PVC signs with snap lock frame system for fire district facilities, and it proposed to contract for such work in order to maintain the high standards of performance of the SELDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT in the discharge of its duties in preserving the lives and property of the residents of the community, and said work is deemed in the best

interests of the residents of the SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT. The resolution further provides that there be transferred from the present Section 6(g) Capital Reserve Fund #1 of the SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT a sum not to exceed Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars for the work, and the District Treasurer is authorized to effect such transfer from time to time to effect such work.

This resolution shall not take effect until thirty (30) days unless in the meanwhile a mandatory referendum as provided for in Section 6(g) of the General Municipal Law is required to be held.

DATED: May 13, 2025

BOARD OF  
FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SELDEN FIRE DISTRICT  
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

ATTEST:

MARION WARREN  
Secretary

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Vintage cars on display.

# Flowerfield Fairgrounds hosts its first car show of the year

BY CAROLINE O'CALLAGHAN  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

It was a sunny day on May 18 for the first Flowerfield car show of the season, which shuffled in droves of visitors. The fairgrounds ceremoniously showcased dozens of modern and vintage vehicles alongside their proud owners, vendors and musicians on its lawns.

The car show and swap meet event was one of many held there every year by Long Island Cars.

Some of those in attendance were auto enthusiasts looking to downsize, like Ken Sitterley, who came there to sell his preloved 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe among other things. Sitterley, who is currently trying to purge his load of around 20 cars, reflected on his time with the Deluxe. “I drove this car for many years,

went to different events with it, just as you see it — believe it or not,” said Sitterley. As he spoke, a man purchased the car, “I came out today to sell all this stuff. And I’ve sold the car to this gentleman over here,” Sitterley confirmed.

Many car owners sparked discussions with one another based on similar interests. Thomas Galicia and Don Heitner parked their muscle cars next to each other and the rest was history. Both of them expressed gratitude for the freedom their cars have brought them as they’ve gotten older. Galicia, who drives a 2017 Dodge Challenger GT, loves its convertible feature.

“It was the first way I could get back into having a muscle car because I had kids. When my last child got her license, it was time to go back to a two-door car,” said Galicia. He was elated over the unconventional terrain that the fairgrounds provides for car shows.

Galicia continued, “I love Flowerfield, it’s

great. It’s nice being able to walk around a grass field as opposed to walking around an “asphalt jungle” where most of these car shows are. When you get to be my age, it’s a lot easier on your knees to walk around in the grass.”

Heitner, with his 1995 Camaro Z28 6 Speed Convertible, spoke of the beautiful weather at Flowerfield, “Today is one of the best days of the year, and there’s not that many of them that line up with the car shows, so, today’s a good day.”

Although Heitner said his Camaro is “a little low to the ground,” he doesn’t mind getting in and out of it as it “keeps him young.”

There were trucks on display as well. Helen and Robert Mayer came with their black 1949 Dodge Pickup decked out in memorabilia from its original era. As it turned out, the truck was a family heirloom for Robert.

Helen described the valiant history of the

truck, “[Robert’s] father bought it new, and his father died back in ‘65. So, it’s been out of the woods for the last 30 years, at least. And we started [rebuilding the truck] at our house over several years ago.”

She then pointed to a board in the trunk which contained photos of the truck at various phases of its restoration and a description of the Mayer family’s rich history with the vehicle. For Ben Picora, the Flowerfield car show goes back generations, as his father brought him to the show when he was growing up. “I’m always gonna vote for more car shows. I’ve been coming to Flowerfield since I was little, so I’ve been coming here for about 10 years,” said Picora.

Picora drove his refurbished 1989 Chevrolet Corvette — the same car that his father showed at Flowerfields when he was a child.



Helen and Robert Mayer stand in front of his 1949 Dodge Pickup Truck.



Ben Picora stands next to he and his father's 1989 Chevrolet Corvette.

—Photos by Caroline O'Callaghan



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