



The TIMES of SMITHTOWN

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Nesconset dog park proposal garners criticism from locals **A20**

Smithtown East student Avery Yang wins scholarship Yang's passion for history and fashion earned her \$40k **A5**



'The Language of Flowers' opens at Mills Pond Gallery **B1**

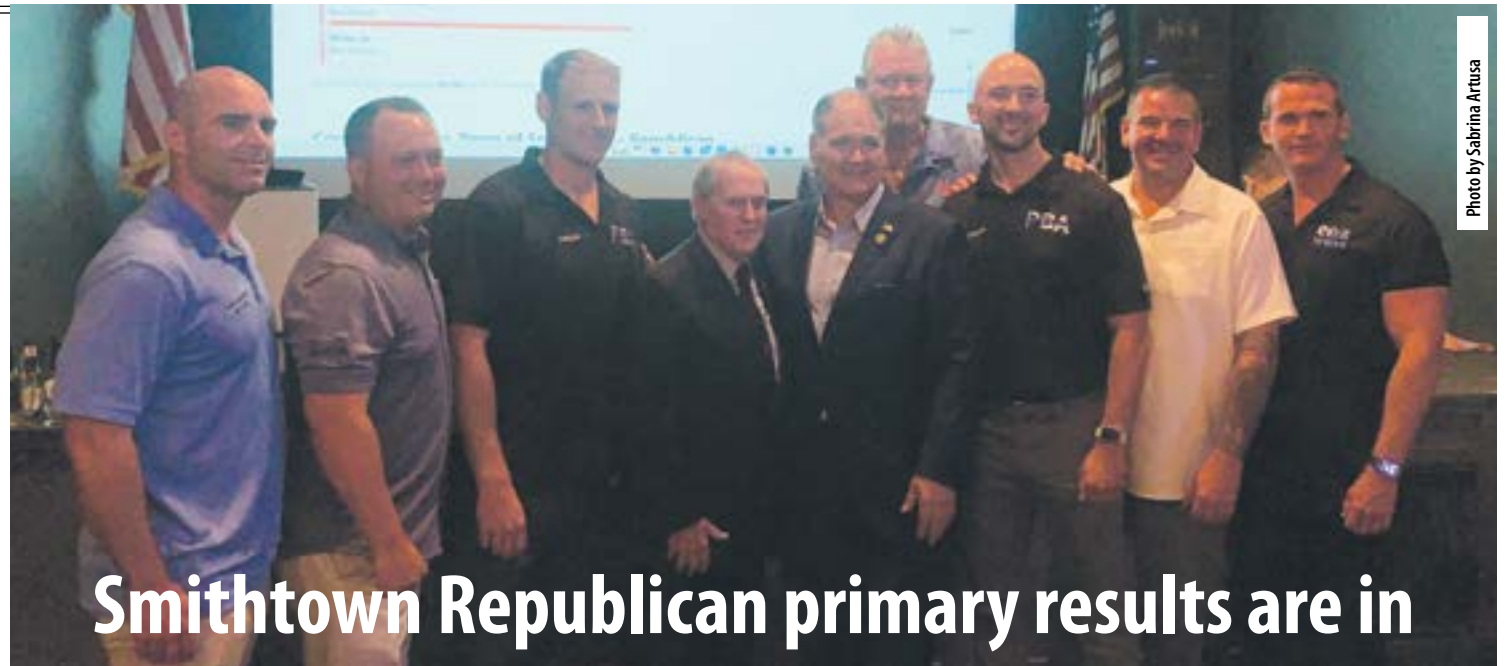


Photo by Sabrina Artusa

Smithtown Republican primary results are in

BY SABRINA ARTUSA
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Smithtown Supervisor Ed Wehrheim (R) secures the Republican seat for town supervisor, winning the Republican primary alongside Lynne Nowick (R) and Thomas J. McCarthy (R) for the town board seats.

Wehrheim, who has held the position since 2018, was challenged by current Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta (R) for the GOP candidacy for town supervisor. Wehrheim won 3,728 votes while Trotta had 3,059.

Former director of the

Smithtown Parks, Buildings & Grounds Department, Wehrheim campaigned on restoring Smithtown parks, revitalizing the downtown areas and maintaining the town's fiscal health. According to Nowick, 70% of Smithtown parks have already been improved.

An exuberant crowd of residents and Republican officials gathered at Napper Tandy's Tuesday night as Wehrheim spoke, the live vote results projected on the screen behind him.

Wehrheim said he endured a "very rough campaign," with the last weeks having been "very negative from my opponent." He commended his team for their

dedication to his campaign.

Salvatore Formica won the primary for Suffolk County legislator representing the 13th district and will run for that seat in November. He beat Frank Black by around 15%.

Having worked as chief for the Commack Fire Department and as a detective for NYPD, Formica is "excited to get back to work to keep Suffolk County safe" by supporting the police and fire departments. He went on discussing the increased demand on fire districts and the plethora of stressors, including mental health, that weigh on law enforcement.

Nowick currently holds a seat

on the Smithtown council and was previously a Suffolk County legislator and a tax receiver. She said, "I want to make sure we are very rigorous in getting the downtowns revitalized" and "maintain what we are doing now with parks, beaches, golf courses, concerts and athletics."

McCarthy said he campaigned "on the facts, the work, the job and doing the best for Smithtown."

Nowick and McCarthy each won by around 29% of votes, beating challengers Robert Sempri and Joann Tiereny-Varello.

The winners will be included in the Nov. 4 general election.

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Meet the scholars of Smithtown East HS and Hauppague HS

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

TBR sent a Q&A to local salutatorians and valedictorians, asking about the strategies that helped them become their school's top performers. In

GRADUATION

Smithtown Central School District, an honor speaker is chosen by the graduating class of each high school instead of prescribing to the valedictorian and salutatorian distinction. Rabia Chattha is the honor speaker for Smithtown High School East. At Hauppague High School, Sara Conquet was valedictorian and Ayaan Shah was salutatorian.

Rabia Chattha
• *GPA: 4.45*
• *Activities: President of Science Olympiad, President of National Honor Society, member of multiple honor societies, Varsity Track and Cross Country Teams, Volunteer Ambulance Corps, co-founder of Game4AC*
• *Attending Stony Brook University to study Biochemistry on the Pre-Med track*

What advice would you give an incoming freshman?
Try everything from class to clubs, even if it isn't your first choice, because you never know

what you'll end up liking. I've learned that high school is the perfect time to explore new interests and step outside your comfort zone.

How did you stay motivated throughout your studies?
Rather than only focusing on one long-term goal, I set many short-term ones as stepping stones. Whether it's aiming to get a good grade on a test coming up in a week or working toward my dream of becoming a physician, these goals keep me focused.

Please share some study habits you employ that helped you maintain high grades.
My biggest study habit that has helped me is time management. I use planners and to-do lists to stay organized. After each class, if there is an upcoming test, I rewrite all of my notes, and if I notice a flaw, I practice a lot to better my weaknesses in that subject.

What are your goals or career aspirations?
In the future, I aspire to become a physician. It has been my dream since I was young to help others through medicine and to truly make a difference in people's lives.

Sara Conquet: Valedictorian
• *GPA: 103.23*
• *Activities: Chamber Orchestra, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, English Honor Society, History Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Quiz Bowl*
• *Attending Vassar College to study Neuroscience*
Ayaan Shah: Salutatorian
• *GPA: 102.92*
• *Activities: Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, Science Bowl, Coding Club, Chamber Orchestra (cello), Varsity Tennis, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, German Honor Society, English Honor Society*
• *Attending Georgia Institute of Technology to study Electrical Engineering*

What advice would you give an incoming freshman?
Conquet: Don't just focus on grades, even when it seems like school encompasses every part of your life. Try to enjoy your classes, especially classes with content that you enjoy learning about — this may even help you figure out what you want to do after high school. Also remember that school isn't just about schoolwork, even if most of the time it seems like it's just about classes and grades. Remember the people — the friends, the teachers, the coaches — that motivate you

to get through the day and give you reasons to smile. Thank them, spend time with them, and remind them how important they are to you.
Shah: My best advice for freshmen would be to take in everything. It is easy to say that a certain subject or class is useless, but you never know what you are interested in if you do not stay open to learning. The second part to this is to try everything. You are at the optimal part of your life where you can learn new hobbies and build lifelong interests, and now is the time to start. Join new clubs, participate in sports, explore new subjects, and do not let any opportunity pass you by.

How did you stay motivated throughout your studies?
Conquet: I always reminded myself of my goals and of how maintaining good grades would allow me to get into a better college and have a more successful future. I also often engaged in friendly competition with some of my peers, and trying to get grades as high as or higher than theirs helped motivate me.
Shah: One of the most important aspects of my life that allowed me to focus on my future goals has been my parents. They always supported my academics, pushed me toward perfection, and aided me when I was unsure exactly what I wanted to do as a career.

Please share some study

habits you employ that helped you maintain high grades.
Conquet: Actively taking notes while the teacher is instructing (in lecture-type classes), taking practice tests in a quiet environment and treating them as if they were the actual test (then grading the tests and assessing my weaknesses and strengths), prioritizing subjects based on difficulty and the dates of the exams.
Shah: One of the best study habits has been to really focus during class and take detailed notes. Even just taking your own notes on blank paper is really helpful to memorize content. Another important point is to remember everything. A school year is not very long, so you should keep everything in mind and not let anything go.
What are your goals or career aspirations?
Conquet: I would like to eventually conduct professional scientific research and pursue a professional degree. I would like to participate in or lead significant research which could possibly benefit the lives of others and contribute to advancements in medicine and science.
Shah: I am going to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. I intend to particularly focus on computer hardware. As a part of this, I hope to participate in various scientific research projects to expand my knowledge and engineering skills.

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Concerned residents approach legislative committee over harbor road safety

BY EMILY MANDRACCHIA
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Nearly one year after Harbor Road collapsed, the unrepaired road is raising serious public safety concerns for residents and first responders. The delay has led to increased emergency response times and growing fears that the situation could result in avoidable loss of life or property.

At a June 17 Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services & Preparedness Committee (FRES) meeting in Hauppauge, residents and officials voiced frustration over the inaction and jurisdictional confusion surrounding the collapsed roadway. They warned that the current detours and narrow, curving side roads are not appropriate for emergency access and are already contributing to slower response times for fire and EMS services.

Beth Zweig, a resident of Head of the Harbor, said the risk is not theoretical. “This is not speculation. Five and seven minutes could be the difference between a person found DOA or a house burned down,” she told attendees, describing the main thoroughfare as “nearly impassible.”

In response to public pressure following a community rally earlier this year, WMHO promised to provide a list of provisions that would render them comfortable signing the FEMA application. Instead, according to a June 10 letter from WMHO’s attorney, the organization presented a list of stipulations that the town and federal government would need to meet in order to access the site for repairs — without accepting ownership or signing off on the application.

The lack of a signed agreement is preventing FEMA funding, which is tied to a 30-month deadline for project completion. Nearly 10 months have already passed. If the parties fail to act soon, the funding could be rescinded. Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta estimates repairs could cost \$8 to \$10 million.

Dominick Thorne, a Suffolk County legislator and member of the Public Safety Committee, warned at the June 17 meeting that continued delays not only jeopardize FEMA funding, but could expose all involved parties to greater legal risk if emergency response is compromised.

“There will be more lawsuits if someone

calls the fire department and they don’t make it,” Thorne said.

The Village of Head of the Harbor officials have expressed concern that the current situation has created unsafe conditions for residents and placed emergency responders in a difficult position.

Public safety officials have not confirmed whether any formal emergency response assessments or contingency plans have been issued regarding Harbor Road, and no agency has stepped forward to assume full responsibility for leading the recovery.

Community members have called on Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine to take a leadership role in coordinating a resolution, citing his prior involvement with infrastructure issues and relationships with local stakeholders. As of this writing, no direct action has been announced by the county executive’s office.

For residents and first responders alike, the concern is that the longer the road remains closed, the higher the chance of a preventable tragedy.

Update on Harbor Road

BY THE WARD MELVILLE HERITAGE ORGANIZATION
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The Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO) announced on June 23 that it has retained an engineering firm, Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE), and work has begun on taking borings of Harbor Road to determine its composition. This process entails drilling down every five feet until reaching 50 feet, inserting a four-inch wide hollow tube, and pulling out samples of soil from three separate locations.

An engineer will analyze data from the borings. Once that information is gathered, hydraulic data (rainfall, road runoff, the existing water in the pond) will then be analyzed. This process will take approximately two to four months.

The board of trustees feels the frustration of the community regarding the issue of Harbor Road, and we have initiated this work to secure on an accelerated basis the critical information needed to repair or replace Harbor Road. After signing the contract with MRCE on February 12, the first step of this multi-tiered process was conducting a survey of the grist mill and providing a subsequent report. Once the data collection and analysis are complete, three design concepts will be provided.

The organization hopes to at that point share all the pertinent details with the county, towns, and village. They realize that the matter requires a comprehensive approach that prevents this disaster from recurring in the future.

Cuts to science and education impacts everyone: a high schooler’s perspective

BY ANISHA MAKOVICKY
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America is the land of opportunities they say, we just have to work hard and we can succeed. As a high school student, I have watched the current administration strip students such as myself of the opportunities that will allow us to build a successful future. The current funding cuts do not impact just science research but also education. According to a report published by Education Week in May 2025, the National Science Foundation, under the Trump administration, canceled over 400 grants for STEM education. The administration has even cut funding for PBS Kids, which was created to bring STEM education to children of lower class families. I can’t imagine any benefits to discouraging our future doctors, engineers, scientists and leaders from science. If high school students are not allowed to start pursuing science early, they will be set back in the future. And since one day we will all depend on this next generation of scientists, doctors and engineers, setting back high school students will set back our whole country, not just in science.

Everyone should be worried about cuts to science and education funding. These affect entire families, students and educators. Parents



are worried that their children will lack future opportunities to become involved in STEM fields. High school students are primarily affected by the loss of programs and reduced chances to gain experiences to form their career ideas. Educators and teachers are not able to do their jobs and support students as they did in the past. Knowledge generated by scientists trickles down to the high school curriculum but if science is limited, there will be less knowledge passed down, meaning that future high schoolers will be

at a lower standing. This domino effect will have a cascading impact on future generations.

A well rounded education is important for everyone, not just students who aspire to attend competitive colleges. As a society, we believe a high school education is crucial for making informed decisions and helping one understand the world better. This is especially relevant because for many people, a high school diploma is the highest level of education they will receive. Federally funded education programs

offer different ways of learning both in and outside classrooms. Experiential learning such as hands-on curricula through internships, public education programs, museums and field trips expand upon the standard public school curricula. This is important because students learn in different ways and non-classroom learning experiences are especially beneficial for students with learning disabilities or different capacities to engage. These diverse types of opportunities are necessary to ensure every student is given a chance to succeed.

Over 50% of NSF funding cuts have been to education programs, according to the Hechinger Report. 1,400 grants have been cut, and 750 of those were to STEM education. That equates to about \$775 million that could have helped students engage with STEM. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) began the cuts to reduce diversity, equity, and inclusion in scientific research. While it is understandable to want our federal government to run efficiently, cutting scientific research and education will have little effect on the efficiency of our government and the lasting impacts will put our entire nation at a disadvantage. It is imperative that we protect our equal access to education in order to create a better future.

Anisha Makovicky is a student at Earl L. Vandermeulen High School.

Smithtown's Yang wins \$40K Judge Cohalan history scholarship

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF
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For her in-depth research about the Prime Thimble Factory in Huntington, Smithtown High School East senior Avery Yang has won the Honorable Peter Fox Cohalan Scholarship in American Studies from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

In its 10th year, the scholarship provides \$10,000 per year for four years to a student who plans to study history in college and who demonstrates a commitment and interest in the subject by focusing on an element of local history on Long Island that reflects New York state and American history.

An accomplished student at Smithtown High School East, Yang focused on the factory that produced the small metal pieces that protected the fingers of those who were sewing from 1836 until the 1880's.

"She did a great job on her research," said Judge Cohalan, for whom the scholarship is named and who is one of the four trustees of the foundation. "Her English was perfect, there were no mistakes. I'm a nitpicker."

Yang, who plans to attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall, is especially passionate about the history of fashion and its connection to the cultural history of an era.

In her paper, which included 30 references and 47 endnotes, including a photo from her own collection of thimbles, Yang described not only the history of the factory but also the symbolism associated with the thimble.

To continue to receive the scholarship, whose previous winners have attended schools including William & Mary, Dartmouth, the University of Michigan and Marist, Yang must earn a 3.25 grade point average during each semester and contribute to a local historical society through a host of possible eligible activities, including website design and maintenance general research.

Over the course of its operation, the factory, which was owned and operated by Ezra Prime, "reflected changes and conflicts within American society. It echoed the broader shift across industries from artisans to factories, and shaped social debates surrounding women's rights through its product's symbolic meaning," wrote in her winning essay.

Gibson girls

Shaun Minton, who taught Yang last year in an Advanced Placement US History class, was delighted that she won this scholarship.

He described Yang as the "top of the top" among students.

During class last year, Minton was discussing the flapper style of the 1920's. He usually compares the flappers to the Gibson Girl.

While some students may have heard of, read about or seen films with flappers, few have any working knowledge of the Gibson Girl, whose archetypal fashion preceded the flappers.

That, however, wasn't the case for Yang, who was able to "explain the fashion of the Gibson Girls better than I could."



In an email, Yang described the Gibson Girl, who was described in illustrations by Charles Gibson, as fashionable women who were modern and active and yet conformed to a patriarchal view of femininity.

Minton, who provided a college recommendation for his former student, recalled how she wrote a targeted and accurate response to a document based question.

"She was able to get right to the point and analyze the material in such a concise manner that I photocopied her paper and showed it to the rest of the class," he said.

Fashion and history

Yang became fascinated with understanding history through fashion in middle school, when she started watching videos on the Internet of people who made historical clothing.

"The tactile aspect drew me into it," she said.

To live the connection to history, Yang sews her own clothing that reflects the styles and fashions of the time. She recreated a vintage original dress that took about three weeks to make from the 1930's and early 1940's with rayon crepe that she bought from an online fabric store.

For another ensemble from around 1818, she worked for about two months to recreate a gown from Théodore Géricault's "Portrait of Laure Bro." She researched primary sources such as historical sewing guides and garments in digital museum collections.

She enjoys the connection to the people, history and culture when she designs and sews these outfits.

It is a "magical experience to feel like you are participating in the same sorts of practices and rituals as someone from the past," she said. "When I finally get to put it

on, it's a completely surreal experience."

Yang has her own Youtube channel and her videos, which include descriptions of old antique machines and the dresses she's made with them as well as a description of sock plushies.

Yang's parents Alan and Cherry Yang are happy and proud of the work her daughter, who has also been a Gardiner scholar, did for this scholarship, which is an ongoing part of her passion for history.

Yang surrounds herself with history, as her room has various antiques including a collection of working children's sewing machines, old irons, advertising pieces and spools of thread, said her mother.

Yang loves antique shops, where "each object there has a story. We bring items home" and her daughter delves into its history, her mother said.

Minton appreciates how Yang, who is successful in math and science classes as well, has chosen to study history in college.

"Kids of her caliber nowadays tend to do STEM," he said.

Yang's parents would like their daughter and her older siblings to find their own way. After college, Yang, who also plays alto saxophone in several groups including the pit orchestra

and jazz band, would like to go into museum conservation where she can work with historical pieces and help preserve them, giving her the opportunity to paint a picture of cultural and social trends that are often missing from the written record. She would also consider becoming a history teacher.

Yang, who is hoping to participate in the graduate level program in public history at UMass Amherst, sees fashion as a reflection of cultural and social aspects of life.

"I find it really interesting to see changes in fashion and the ways in which things are sewn," she said.



Left: Yang with the black dress she recreated from the 1940s vintage original.

Bottom right: Yang wearing a period dress she designed and created based on Theodore Gericault's "Portrait of Laure Bro", painted in 1818. That project, which involved using silk and cotton, took two months to create.

Photos courtesy of Avery Yang

Editorial

Cutting STEM threatens future growth

Plants need stems to survive. They provide structural support and connect the roots to the leaves and flowers, making it possible to bring water, nutrients and sugars throughout the plant.

Similarly, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) serves a critical function for society.

As with the rest of a plant, STEM is not the only part that nourishes our culture, but it does offer critical support that makes it possible to adapt to future challenges and to push the frontier of human knowledge.

This week, we and scientists around the world celebrated the long-anticipated grand opening of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile, a telescope and camera so advanced that it has already spotted 2,400 asteroids we hadn't previously seen.

This state-of-the-art camera was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science, making it possible to see deep into space and to ask questions about changes around us as well as dark matter and dark energy.

"NSF-DOE Rubin Observatory reflects what's possible when the federal government backs world-class engineers and scientists with the tools to lead," Harriet Kung, acting director of the DOE's Office of Science said in a statement.

Indeed!
This project echoes some of the cutting edge science efforts that the federal government supported after World War II.

STEM funding supports translational research, which addresses questions like what molecule can scientists target to slow or stop the progression of cancer or what plant genes can enhance resistance to disease or environmental extremes. It can also support basic research that explores what causes a cell to divide, to die, or to differentiate.

Both of these areas of research have led to important discoveries that have contributed to society. Researchers credit their achievements with the opportunity and knowledge they received from previous generations of scientists who, like runners in a relay race, pass the baton to the next generation of great thinkers and explorers.

Science funding has among the highest returns on investment of any federal funding. Cutting funding to areas like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other federal programs can impede the ability of science and society to grow and respond to change.

The current budget proposal for 2026 suggests a 40 percent cut to the NIH, which would reduce the number of institutes from 27 to eight. Yikes!

Further up the chain, societal growth also depends on supporting the education of students who can go from a classroom where they learn about what's known to a field where they can rewrite the textbooks they had studied.

Canceling grants to STEM education not only threatens the students who miss out on chances to learn, but also society, which won't benefit from the spark of inspiration these students receive.

The federal government must continue to invest in STEM. The future growth of our society - with businesses, cures for diseases and an expanding knowledge base that enables us to live healthier and better lives - depends on it.

Letters to the Editor

Local community paper should cover community events

I'm irritated by the coverage of the No Kings protest by the Port Times Record in the June 19 issue. Why this "community" newspaper continues to give attention to left-leaning causes rankles me. Right there on the front page side-bar were two other stories that merited much greater attention because of their community interest: The PJ mayoral results in a hotly contested election and the nationally ranked rowing teams celebrating the accomplishments of our hard-working teens. Instead, the main focus was on a totally ineffectual protest that accomplished nothing.

Why must the Port Times Record give voice to misguided individuals. For example, the article quotes the protest organizer claiming, "We don't do dictator parades." The parade celebrating the founding of the US Army had been planned under the Biden administration for two years.

The irony should not be lost on clear-thinking people that the real dictatorship was the government that required and demanded that we wear masks, stay quarantined, prevented us from worshipping in our churches and synagogues, mandated vaccines, closed businesses, made sure that the elderly died alone, kept us social distant at an arbitrary 6-feet apart and closed schools setting back the education of our children. Who were the real dictators? Where were these antidictatorship protesters then? Yet, the Port Times Record thinks No Kings is front-page news.

Perhaps the Port Times Record should focus on community news and leave its bias to the op-ed page.

*Rick Ceo
Port Jefferson Village*

Response to Gene Sprouse's June 12th letter

I am responding ONLY as a longstanding resident of the community, not as a Setauket Neighborhood House Board member.

I purchased a home on Lake Street in 1976 directly across the Setauket Mill Pond from the Setauket Neighborhood House. Before that, I lived in the B Section of Strathmore for 7 years. A total of 56 years in the community, compared to Mr. Sprouse's 55 claimed years, is pretty equal local tenure. However, as a person living so close to the SNH for 49 years, I do have a pretty good sense of the daily activities there.

While living on Lake Street, I used the SNH many times for my children's birthday parties and for two of my own birthday celebrations.

The Lake Street ladies, led by Eva Glaser, Liz Tyler and Marylu Mills assembled to do the first major redecorating of the house back in 1980. It was the first Three Village Historical Society Candlelight House Tour

featuring some homes around the Setauket Mill Pond to raise money to refresh the interior of the Setauket Neighborhood House. I was part of that effort, yet those three ladies deserve all the credit.

I offer the above simply to show my longstanding involvement with the SNH.

I have been a member of the SNH Board for 10+ years now, but this letter is NOT from the board. It is from a local Lake Street resident who happens to be on the board. It is NOT an official SNH Board response, just my thoughts.

The cameras were installed in the SNH as a safety issue, not to monitor or to spy on any groups using the house.

While it IS posted everywhere that NO SMOKING is allowed inside or on the porches, people using the house continue to smoke there. As a member of the Three Village Garden Club, I have planted and maintained the flowering annuals in front of the house for many, many years. I check them twice weekly and pick up the cigarette and cigar butts (along with cups, plates, napkins and other trash) thrown from the porches into the bushes and flowers. Other board members do so as well.

The house is open most days with little or limited supervision. Recently, a group left a kettle on the stove to burn dry, a major fire hazard. People frequently use the house as a bathroom stop. Significant damage has occurred over the years, and it has become worse of late. Items are stolen and damage occurs. We have had groups from other LI communities using the house for fundraisers that are of no benefit to the local community. While the house is available until 11 p.m., some groups illegally stay longer.

For example, two summers ago I heard loud noises from both inside the house and in the parking lot at 11:30 p.m., well beyond closing time. A fight broke out in the parking lot, and I called the Suffolk County Police at 11:45 p.m. An officer arrived at 12:30 a.m. after I made a second call asking the 911 operator why it was taking so long to arrive at the scene of this fight. The operator told me that the police officer did not know where the SNH was even though I explained its location in my original call. Incredible! At 8 a.m. the next morning SNH Board President Tim O'Leary and I were at the house picking up all sorts of garbage left behind by this group. Needless to say, we are both volunteers.

So, yes, Mr. Sprouse, the SHN DOES need cameras for security and safety. I disagree that, "There is little need for this internal surveillance to protect the House...." It is NOT just "our neighbors" who use the house. People from communities 45-50 minutes away rent space there as well. I am not certain they will "value and protect this great community resource."

As for privacy issues, the house was never meant to be used for secret private political meetings. If privacy is an issue, then such

groups should find another place to meet.

No board member is spending time spying on meetings or ogling yoga classes, but when damage occurs (and it certainly has!), we do have a video of the damage done and the responsible party. At one recent meeting, one of the group disabled the camera. Do you support such actions? I do not.

Although groups are told they may NOT tape banners to the walls, just a few weeks ago, a group from outside the Three Village community did so, damaging the paint on a wall that had been painted just months before. We have proof and can assess the responsible group for repairs. Video proof was essential.

Please understand that we have numerous groups who use the house for its intended purpose and deserve credit for their tender care of as Mr. Sprouse asserts, "a wonderful community resource."

I believe, as a neighbor living near this historic building, that video monitoring is essential to the safety and security of the house. If a group finds that offensive, I am sure they can meet elsewhere or in private homes.

With grateful appreciation to all who use and support the house for its intended purpose from the Constitution and By-Laws --"To promote moral, intellectual, recreational and social welfare of the residents of Setauket, New York and vicinity."

*Julie Robinson Parmegiani
Lake Street, Setauket*



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Opinion

It's all absurd and it helps to laugh your way through it

My uncle was mad and probably a bit disappointed with the rest of the family. He had gallantly, I suppose in his mind, volunteered to drive our family from the funeral home to the cemetery where my father was going to be buried.



D. None of the above

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

There my brothers and I were, laughing in the back as if we were on a normal family retreat. No, scratch that, we were probably laughing even more forcefully. It was our coping mechanism, which my uncle, who spent little time with us growing up and, in particular, during my father's illness, wouldn't and didn't understand.

One of the many things that we observed and shared with each other from the back of that vehicle of loss was the impressive collection of fancy cars that were trailing behind us.

Our father was a big fan of test driving cars but not as much of a fan of buying them. We're pretty sure there were car salesman who went on break immediately as soon as they saw him

turn into their lot, desperate to get away from the bearded guy who seemed so earnest and excited about the cars, but almost never did anything other than ask about them, drive them, and return to his aging Buick LeSabre, promising to "think about it."

We were amazed at the Jaguars, the Mercedes and the host of other cars that people who wanted to pay their respects drove to his funeral.

"Oooh, there's a BMW," one of us said. "Wow, dad would love that car, but maybe not in that color."

My uncle shook his head slightly and frowned at us in the mirror. I guess he wanted us to behave more properly or respectfully during this somber moment.

But laughter is not only the best medicine, as it turned out for us, but has been a way my family connects with each other and with many of the people in our lives.

I must have watched the movie "The Court Jester" starring Danny Kaye at least a dozen times with my father. Each time, I knew when the dialog that made him laugh so hard was coming. His breath came in high pitched squeals as he bent over double trying to get air into lungs that were too busy laughing spasmodically.

"The pellet with the poison is in the vessel

from the pestle. The chalice from the palace has the brew that is true," Kaye would say.

Those lines, and the bumbled repetition with nonsense word variations, always hit their mark, forcing him to find a tissue to wipe the tears from his cheeks.

I remember the laughter, and what triggered it, from friends and family members who have either passed or with whom I have had little contact over the years.

Shared laughter, as sitcom producers understand, creates a positive and encouraging atmosphere, telling us that we can return and enjoy these light-hearted and peaceful moments with unseen strangers or with others in the room.

The hit show M*A*S*H combined macabre humor in the midst of a war zone with antics that helped talented but stir crazy doctors manage through difficult circumstances.

My aunt Maxine used to find it both surprisingly annoying and oddly funny when I rolled my sleeves up into strange positions or turned parts of my collar inside out.

"Don't be silly!" she'd laugh, which, of course, only encouraged me. "What are you doing, Daniel?"

She'd come over and, with the soft small fingers of someone who had Down syndrome,

would unfurl the sleeves of my shirt and would adjust my collar.

My grandmother, meanwhile, giggled at the absurdity of her grandchildren.

My brothers and I would sometimes say or do something unusual and, rather than get upset, she would find our behavior so ridiculous as to be laughable. When she giggled, her entire upper body shook, as those quaking motions had an epicenter around her stomach. Her laughter made her seem so much younger.

My wife and I recently attended a live musical show that poked fun at everyone from politicians to sports figures to crazy neighborhood text messages.

The show not only hit home for many, but it also caused people to chuckle so hard that their laughter became a part of the show.

These days, with uncertainty around the world and hovering heat and humidity squeezing sweat out of us like a dish rag, the laughter of those we know or have known can serve as a soothing salve. Life is messy and frustrating and seemingly beyond our ability to control. Laughter may be just what we need, offering the kind of cooling shade that dials down the temperature.

Is showing one's knees still scandalous?

Whew! That was blistering heat we just endured for the last few days. When it gets that hot, I have two reactions. I need some ice cream, preferably a cone filled with coffee ice cream dotted with chocolate chips. And I have to switch to wearing shorts.



Between you and me

BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

So it gave me a chuckle to read an inquiry by a reader of the New York Times Style Questions column asking about wearing shorts to work. Now I'm supposing that she works in a large city office, where there is a formal or informal dress code, and like me, she wants to beat the heat by donning shorts.

Her question amuses me because it reminds me of how far wearing shorts has come, and also how lucky we are.

First the shorts evolution. It must have been a slow news day back in 1960, when The New York Times ran a front page story about Barnard students wearing Bermuda shorts as they meandered through the Columbia campus. Imagine the scandal. It seems President Grayson Kirk of Columbia was offended by the casual dress and asked Barnard President Millicent McIntosh to clamp down on her students. Only skirts were to be worn, came the directive, with some sort of appropriate blouse.

Well, we students protested, with petitions and rallies, until the ban was rescinded to a "request" to wear a coat or slacks over the shorts when on the Columbia campus, which was across Broadway from Barnard. Think how innocent the uproar when measured against today's protests on the same campuses.

Clearly President McIntosh wasn't similarly offended because she advised us during an ensuing assembly of the entire college "to turn over your book covers when you are riding the subway (some two-thirds of students were

commuters then) so no one knows you are from Barnard." And any ban would not take place until September, which was one way of kicking the can-or-ban-down the road.

Other women's colleges treated the issue of showing knees differently. Radcliffe, adjacent to Harvard, only permitted shorts for athletic activities. Vassar College allowed shorts both on campus and in town (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.). Smith College, in Northampton, Mass., allowed shorts on campus and in class, but no shorter than two inches above the knee. All that was researched by The NYT reporter for the 1960 article.

Today's reporter, Vanessa Friedman, answered the reader this way. "Shorts are often longer than skirts these days and often more conservative. There is no reason a woman shouldn't wear them to the office." She goes on to say that any hesitation might stem from the association of shorts with play and summer weekends rather than work. As such they are not considered professional garb.

There is also the question of what kind of

shorts, she advises. Very short shorts are not any more acceptable than very short skirts. To professionalize the look, a blazer, a belted T-shirt and conservative shoes — platform shoes or even pumps — might complete the outfit, or an oversize button-up shirt.

So now I come to the point of our being lucky. First, most of us are not in a large city office but rather a suburban environment, which, culturally, is more relaxed. We live in the land of the sweatsuits.

Furthermore, times have so radically changed that no one, for example, expects a doctor or lawyer, the epitome of professional, I guess, to appear in a suit. Not even a tie. A button-up Oxford shirt is pretty dressed up these days, and we often see professionals thusly outfitted: men in golf shirts and trousers, and women in short sun dresses.

Finally, we, as journalists, are allowed to look casually dressed. Few people would expect to be interviewed by someone in a suit. It might even make them nervous. Yippee!



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Ronkonkoma man convicted of second DWI within 10 years

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on June 18 that Thomas Gaylor, 70, of Lake Ronkonkoma, was found guilty of felony Driving While Intoxicated and Aggravated DWI, for driving his vehicle while intoxicated on Ronkonkoma Avenue in Ronkonkoma in 2023.

The evidence at trial established that, on November 9, 2023, at approximately 5:40 p.m., Gaylor was observed operating a 2018 White Chevrolet Cruze in a northbound direction on Ronkonkoma Ave. in Ronkonkoma.

Gaylor was driving the car erratically by driving significantly below the speed limit, breaking at odd points in the road, and even veering into oncoming traffic. A witness driving behind him called 911 to report the dangerous and erratic driving to police. Gaylor was eventually located by Suffolk County police a short time later, parked outside his home and slumped over the steering wheel. After being transported to the hospital due to



Thomas Gaylor

his high level of intoxication, he consented to a blood draw, revealing that his blood alcohol level was .33, over four times the legal limit of .08.

On June 18, 2025, Gaylor was convicted after a jury trial heard before Acting County Court Judge James A. McDonough for Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E felony, and Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E felony. Gaylor was previously convicted of Driving While Intoxicated on August 27, 2018.

“In 2025, there is no excuse for driving drunk,” said District Attorney Tierney. “Car services, taxis and rideshares are everywhere. Unfortunately, we see too often how drunk or drugged driving can lead to a tragic result. Repeating that same offense shows a complete and utter disregard for human life.”

Gaylor is due back in court on August 13 and faces up to 1 and 1/3 to 4 years’ incarceration.

— SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.’S OFFICE

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

Child left unattended in vehicle

Suffolk County Police arrested a Patchogue man after he left his son in a parked vehicle during extreme temperatures on June 24.

Sixth Precinct officers responded to the parking lot of Walmart, located at 161 Centereach Mall, at approximately 1:40 p.m. after a Good Samaritan called 911 to report a child sleeping in a parked 2007 Toyota Highlander that was not running with the windows open a few inches.

Officers were able to reach through the window to unlock the vehicle and remove the child. As first responders were administering aid to the child, his father, Keniarold Andre, 36, returned to the vehicle and was arrested.

The child was in the vehicle, unattended, for approximately 20 minutes and the outside temperature was approximately 100 degrees. The boy, 2, was transported to Stony Brook University Hospital for treatment and was released to a family member and Suffolk County Child Protective Services was notified. Andre was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Man dies in police custody in Selden

Suffolk County Police Homicide Squad detectives are investigating the death of a man who died in police custody on June 23.

A detention attendant in the Sixth Precinct was monitoring the cell block when he noticed a prisoner, Quinn Harrison, laying on a bench in the cell in an awkward position at approximately 9:40 p.m. The detention attention notified the desk sergeant. Officers then began CPR and applied an automatic external defibrillator. Members of Selden Rescue responded, continued CPR, and administered Narcan. Harrison was transported by ambulance to Stony Brook University Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Harrison, 39, of Shirley, was being held overnight after being arrested earlier in the day on two bench warrants and one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree.

Kings Park man arrested for stalking

Suffolk County Police arrested a Kings Park man on June 23 for stalking a Suffolk County legislator outside of his home last week.

Legislator Robert Trotta reported to police that between June 16 and June 18 a white 1989 Chevrolet pickup truck parked in the driveway of his Northport home on more than one occasion

and revved its engine to intimidate him and his family. The incident was reported to police on June 19.

Following an investigation by Major Case Unit detectives, Joshua Smith was arrested. Smith, 47, was charged with Stalking 4th Degree, a misdemeanor.

Mt. Sinai massage parlor raided

Suffolk County Police arrested a woman on June 24 for alleged unauthorized practice of a profession in Mount Sinai.

In response to numerous community complaints, Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers, in conjunction with officials from the Town of Brookhaven, conducted an investigation into Sakura Foot Spa, located at 47 Route 25A, and arrested Rongzhen Wang at 7 p.m.

Wang, 43, of Flushing, was charged with alleged Unauthorized Practice of a Profession, a felony. The Town of Brookhaven issued multiple violations and condemned the building as unsafe.

Two arrested at Melville fight club

Suffolk County Police arrested two Northport men on June 22 for allegedly participating in an unauthorized fight club event in Melville.

In response to community complaints, Second Precinct Anti-Crime Unit and Second Precinct Investigative Unit officers investigated a fight club advertised on social media and arrested two participants at Walt Whitman Park at approximately 4:30 p.m. There were approximately 70 people in attendance.

Finley McCloskey, 19, of Northport and Jake Zimilies, 19, of Northport, were charged with Unlawful Assembly.

Pedestrian injured in Huntington

Suffolk County Police arrested a Babylon man for driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle crash seriously injured a pedestrian in Huntington on June 22.

Jorge Alfaro was running westbound across New York Avenue at Carver Street when he was stuck by a southbound 2012 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Alexander Vargas, at approximately 2:30 a.m.

Alfaro, 28, of Huntington Station, was transported with serious injuries to Huntington Hospital. Vargas, 30, was charged with Driving While Intoxicated. Vargas is a Suffolk County Police officer assigned to the Second Precinct and was off duty at the time of the crash. He was suspended without pay following the crash.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

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Library flood repairs require vote

BY SABRINA ARTUSA
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

On July 1, residents within the Smithtown Special Library District will vote on a \$16.5 million bond referendum, which would allow the partially opened Smithtown library to finance the restoration of the destroyed lower floor.

After a 100-year storm delivered a deluge of water collected over about a 12-hour period to the library, which sits at a lower grade, the library now needs \$16.5 million to return to its full operating capacity.

Library officials have submitted records of the damage to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but the timeline of when the funding will be reimbursed is uncertain. While they hope FEMA will cover most of the damage, they need the funding to proceed with repairs before they can submit the request.

The project would increase the tax rate by \$5.722 per \$1,000 of a homeowner's assessed residence value. Residences assessed at \$6,000 may pay around \$391 in library taxes and will pay an additional \$34.33 per year for the next 15 years.

Smithtown Library Business Manager Jennifer Piano works with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to coordinate with FEMA. "It has to go through levels of approval," she said.

In May, the Library secured \$314,304 from FEMA, but the timeline of when they would possess that money was unclear. Staff knew their application was approved but did not know when they would receive the money until the moment they got the check. The money was reimbursement for immediate disaster remediation efforts, like removing debris and pumping water out of the building.

Library officials have been charged with analyzing the damage and measuring the costs for repairs. Each step is scrupulously checked by FEMA. "They make us work hard to make sure all the information is correct," said Smithtown Library Director Rob Lusak. The process is lengthy but ensures the proper management of funds.

The capital improvement project would restore the offices, community rooms and collection area and enhance flood preventative measures, move the collection of rare and antique books to the first floor and add a government services department.

John Tanzi, of the architectural firm John Tanzi Architects, will design the lower floor

with the additions and the space on the main level in the Long Island room for the Richard Handley Collection of Long Island Americana. The increased height of the retaining wall is pivotal in preventing future flooding, Tanzi said, as it would allow the water to flow toward the front of the building naturally, following the natural grade counters of the land. "It would just push its way out naturally," he said.

In addition, the drainage wells will be expanded in both diameter and height to 12 by 12 feet, allowing for a holding capacity of 240,000 gallons; however, these drainage wells cannot handle the volume of water that flowed to the library last summer, he said. The sump pumps, which were clogged with debris on the day of the storm, are a "miniscule" factor in abating flooding, he added, although they help in preventing overflow in the stairwells.

The \$16.5 million the library is asking for is a "worst-case scenario," said Tanzi, and prepares for the possibility that the library will not receive any

more financial help from FEMA.

"Once the green light has been given, then John can go ahead with repairs," Lusak said of the vote on July 1.

There will be separate, public bids for contractors for electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning and construction, which will use around half of the \$16.5 million.

For more information visit the library website: www.smithlib.org.



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NOTICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING VOTE OF THE SMITHTOWN SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT, IN THE TOWN OF SMITHTOWN, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District (the “Library District”), in the Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York, adopted on May 6, 2025, a Special District Meeting Vote of the qualified voters of the Library District will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 from 9:30 o’clock A.M. (Prevailing Time) to 9:00 o’clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) at the following four (4) polling places.

1. Qualified voters residing: within zip code 11780; within zip code 11788 who reside SOUTH of Route 347, Nesconset Highway; within zip code 11787 who live EAST of Blydenburgh County Park, Caleb Smith State Park and Route 25A (St. Johnland Road) and SOUTH of Landing Road (NOTE: those who reside in the area serviced by the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library CANNOT vote in this election) will vote at the Smithtown Main Building, located at One North Country Road, Smithtown, NY.

2. Qualified voters residing: within zip code 11754 or 11768; and within zip code 11787 who reside NORTH of Route 25, Old Northport Road and Landing Road, WEST of Route 25A (St. Johnland Road) and EAST of Plymouth Boulevard will vote at the Kings Park Branch, located at One

Church Street, Kings Park, NY.

3. Qualified voters residing: within zip code 11725; within zip code 11788 who reside SOUTH of Veterans Memorial Highway; and within zip code 11787 who live WEST of Blydenburgh County Park, Caleb Smith State Park and Plymouth Boulevard will vote at the Commack Branch, located at 3 Indian Head Road, Commack, NY.

4. Qualified voters residing: within zip code 11767; who live SOUTH of Route 25 from the Smithtown-Brookhaven border to Southern Boulevard; EAST of Southern Blvd. from Route 25 to Route 347, Nesconset Highway; SOUTH of Route 347, Nesconset Highway from Southern Boulevard to the Smithtown Greenbelt Town Park; EAST of the Smithtown Greenbelt Town Park from Route 347 Nesconset Highway to the Smithtown-Islip border (NOTE: those who reside in the area serviced by the Sachem School and Library Districts CANNOT vote in this election) will vote at the Nesconset Branch, located at 148 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, NY.

The voting at the Special District Meeting Vote shall be upon the following Proposition:

PROPOSITION RESOLVED:

The Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District (the “Library District”), in the Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York is hereby authorized to (a) construct improvements to the Main

Library Building located at 1 North Country Road, Smithtown, New York, which improvements are necessary due to catastrophic flooding resulting from a significant storm event in August 2024, at the estimated cost of not to exceed \$16,500,000; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, and to reimburse prior expenditures made by the Library therefor, not to exceed in aggregate the estimated total cost \$16,500,000, plus any additional amounts received by the Library in connection with the financing thereof, including but not limited to bond sale premiums, investment income on bond proceeds, grants, donations or charitable contributions; (b) to finance the cost of the Project through the issuance of bonds and/or notes by the Town of Smithtown on behalf of the Library District in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000; (c) to cause the Town to assess, levy and collect therefor a tax payable in annual installments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 per year, which annual installment of the tax shall be in addition to the amount presently raised annually by tax for the Library District’s annual appropriations, over a maximum period of fifteen (15) years for the payment of all principal, interest, redemption premiums, if any, and expenses relating to the financing of said cost; (d) to assign and pledge all of said tax to the Town; and (e) to enter into loan agreements and any other agreements and/or to take any and all other actions incidental or necessary to

the completion of the Project and the financing thereof.

Such Proposition shall appear on the ballot used for voting at said Special District Meeting Vote in substantially the foregoing form.

The voting will be conducted by paper ballots and the polls will remain open from 9:30 A.M. (Prevailing Time) to 9:00 P.M. (Prevailing Time) and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters, then present, to cast their ballots. Only qualified voters shall be permitted to vote at said Special District Meeting Vote.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT every qualified voter of the Town of Smithtown who resides within the Smithtown Special Library District and is otherwise qualified to vote at a General Town Election shall be qualified to vote at said Special District Meeting Vote.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that applications for absentee ballots and early mail ballots will be available at each library building within the Smithtown Special Library District during regular business hours and may be printed from the Library’s website (www.smithlib.org). Such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the July 1, 2025 Special District Meeting Vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or the last business day before the election if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter. Qualified voters may obtain an absentee/early mail ballot at the Community Relations Department in the Nesconset Building, located at 148 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, NY, on days the Library is open to the public between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. (except Saturday, Sunday and holidays) commencing June 6, 2025. A list of all persons to whom absentee/early mail ballots have been issued will be posted in the Administration Office in the Nesconset Building on each of the five (5) days prior to the July 1,

2025 Special District Meeting Vote between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., except Saturday, Sunday and holidays. No absentee/early mail ballot shall be canvassed unless received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the Special District Meeting Vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that military voters who are qualified voters of the Smithtown Special Library District must apply for a military ballot by submitting an application which is obtainable from the District Clerk. Completed applications for a military ballot must be returned by mail or in person, and received by the District Clerk not later than twenty-five (25) days before the date of the Special District Meeting Vote. Military voters may designate a preference to receive a ballot application and/or the military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed or otherwise distributed in accordance with the preferred method of transmission, as soon as practicable, but not later than twenty-five (25) days before the date of the Special District Meeting Vote (June 6, 2025). Irrespective of the preferred method of transmission, military ballots must be received by mail or returned in person to the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM (Prevailing Time) on the day of the Special District Meeting Vote in order to be counted.

5/7/2025
Lauren Gunderson,
District Clerk
Smithtown Special
Library District

270580 5/15 4x ts

AVISO DE LA VOTACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL DISTRITO DISTRITO ESPECIAL DE BIBLIOTECAS DE SMITHTOWN, EN LA CIUDAD DE SMITHTOWN, CONDADO DE SUFFOLK, NUEVA YORK

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que, de conformidad con una resolución

de la Junta Directiva del Distrito Especial de Bibliotecas de Smithtown (el “Distrito de Bibliotecas”), en la ciudad de Smithtown, Condado de Suffolk, Nueva York, adoptada el 6 de mayo de 2025, se llevará a cabo una Votación de Reunión Especial del Distrito de los votantes calificados del Distrito de Bibliotecas el martes 1 de julio, 2025 desde las 9:30 a.m. (hora prevaleciente) hasta las 9:00 p.m. (hora prevaleciente) en los siguientes cuatro (4) lugares de votación.

1. Votantes calificados que residen: dentro del código postal 11780; dentro del código postal 11788 que residen al SUR de la Ruta 347, Nesconset Highway; dentro del código postal 11787 que viven al ESTE de Blydenburgh County Park, Caleb Smith State Park y la Ruta 25A (St. Johnland Road) y al SUR de Landing Road (NOTA: aquellos que residen en el área atendida por la Biblioteca Conmemorativa Emma S. Clark NO PUEDEN votar en esta elección) votarán en el edificio principal de Smithtown, ubicado en One North Country Road, Smithtown, NY.

2. Votantes calificados que residen: dentro del código postal 11754 o 11768; y dentro del código postal 11787 que residen al NORTE de la Ruta 25, Old Northport Road y Landing Road, al OESTE de la Ruta 25A (St. Johnland Road) y al ESTE de Plymouth Boulevard votarán en la sucursal de Kings Park, ubicada en One Church Street, Kings Park, NY.

3. Votantes calificados que residen: dentro del código postal 11725; dentro del código postal 11788 que residen al SUR de Veterans Memorial Highway; y dentro del código postal 11787 que viven al OESTE del Parque del Condado de Blydenburgh, el Parque Estatal Caleb Smith y el Bulevar de Plymouth votarán en la Sucursal de Commack, ubicada en 3 Indian Head Road, Commack, NY.

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LEGALS

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LEGALS *con't from pg. 18*

4. Votantes calificados que residen: dentro del código postal 11767; que viven al SUR de la Ruta 25 desde la frontera entre Smithtown y Brookhaven hasta Southern Boulevard; AL ESTE de Southern Blvd. desde la Ruta 25 hasta la Ruta 347, Nesconset Highway; AL SUR de la Ruta 347, Nesconset Highway desde Southern Boulevard hasta Smithtown Greenbelt Town Park; AL ESTE del Smithtown Greenbelt Town Park desde la Ruta 347 Nesconset Highway hasta la frontera Smithtown-Islip (NOTA: aquellos que residen en el área atendida por los Distritos Escolares y Bibliotecarios de Sachem NO PUEDEN votar en esta elección) votarán en la sucursal de Nesconset, ubicada en 148 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, NY.

La votación en la Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito será sobre la siguiente Proposición:

PROPOSICIÓN
RESUELTO:

Por la presente, se autoriza a la Junta Directiva del Distrito Especial de Bibliotecas de Smithtown (el “Distrito de Bibliotecas”), en la ciudad de Smithtown, condado de Suffolk, Nueva York, a (a) construir mejoras en el edificio de la Biblioteca Principal ubicado en 1 North Country Road, Smithtown, Nueva York, cuyas mejoras son necesarias debido a las inundaciones catastróficas resultantes de una tormenta significativa en agosto de 2024, a un costo estimado que no exceda los 16.500.000 dólares; y a gastar para ello, incluyendo los costos preliminares y los costos incidentales a los mismos y el financiamiento

de los mismos, y reembolsar los gastos anteriores realizados por la Biblioteca para los mismos, sin exceder en conjunto el costo total estimado de \$16,500,000, más cualquier monto adicional recibido por la Biblioteca en relación con el financiamiento de los mismos, incluyendo pero no limitado a las primas de venta de bonos, ingresos de inversión sobre ingresos de bonos, subvenciones, donaciones o contribuciones caritativas; (b) financiar el costo del Proyecto a través de la emisión de bonos y/o pagarés por parte de la Ciudad de Smithtown en nombre del Distrito de Bibliotecas por un monto que no exceda los \$16,500,000; (c) hacer que el Municipio evalúe, imponga y recaude un impuesto pagadero en cuotas anuales por un monto total que no exceda los \$ 1,800,000 por año, cuya cuota anual del impuesto será adicional a la cantidad actualmente recaudada anualmente por impuestos para las asignaciones anuales del Distrito de Bibliotecas, durante un período máximo de quince (15) años para el pago de todo el capital, intereses, primas de reembolso, si las hubiere, y gastos relacionados con la financiación de dicho coste; (d) ceder y prenda la totalidad de dicho impuesto a la Ciudad; y (e) celebrar contratos de préstamo y cualquier otro acuerdo y/o tomar todas y cada una de las demás acciones incidentales o necesarias para la finalización del Proyecto y la financiación del mismo.

Dicha Proposición aparecerá en la boleta utilizada para votar en dicha Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito en sustancialmente la forma anterior.

La votación se llevará a cabo con boletas de papel y las urnas permanecerán abiertas desde las 9:30 a.m. (hora prevaleciente) hasta las 9:00 p.m. (hora prevaleciente) y tanto tiempo como sea necesario para permitir que los votantes, entonces presentes, emitan su voto. Solo los votantes calificados podrán votar en dicha Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito.

TENGA EN CUENTA QUE todo votante calificado de la ciudad de Smithtown que resida dentro del Distrito de Bibliotecas Especiales de Smithtown y esté calificado para votar en una Elección General de la Ciudad estará calificado para votar en dicha Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito.

TENGA EN CUENTA que las solicitudes para boletas de voto en ausencia y boletas anticipadas por correo estarán disponibles en cada edificio de la biblioteca dentro del Distrito Especial de Bibliotecas de Smithtown durante el horario comercial regular y se pueden imprimir desde el sitio web de la Biblioteca (www.smithlib.org). Dicha solicitud debe ser recibida por el Secretario del Distrito al menos siete (7) días antes de la Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito del 1 de julio de 2025 si la boleta se va a enviar por correo al votante; o el último día hábil antes de la elección si la boleta debe ser entregada personalmente al votante. Los votantes calificados pueden obtener una boleta de voto en ausencia/correo anticipado en el Departamento de Relaciones Comunitarias en el Edificio Nesconset, ubicado en 148 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, NY, los días en que

la Biblioteca está abierta al público entre las 9:30 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m. (excepto sábados, domingos y feriados) a partir del 6 de junio de 2025. Se publicará una lista de todas las personas a las que se han emitido boletas de voto en ausencia/correo anticipado en la Oficina de Administración en el Edificio Nesconset en cada uno de los cinco (5) días anteriores a la Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito del 1 de julio de 2025 entre las 9:30 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m., excepto sábados, domingos y feriados. No se registrará ninguna boleta de voto en ausencia o por correo anticipado a menos que el Secretario del Distrito la reciba a más tardar a las 5:00 p.m. el día de la Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito.

Y POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL de que los votantes militares que son votantes calificados del Distrito de Bibliotecas Especiales de Smithtown deben solicitar una boleta militar presentando una solicitud que se puede obtener del Secretario del Distrito. Las solicitudes completadas para una boleta militar deben devolverse por correo o en persona, y ser recibidas por el Secretario del Distrito a más tardar veinticinco (25) días antes de la fecha de la Votación de la Reunión Especial del Distrito. Los votantes militares pueden designar una preferencia para recibir una solicitud de boleta y/o la boleta militar por correo, transmisión de fax o correo electrónico. Las boletas para votantes militares se enviarán por correo o se distribuirán de otra manera de acuerdo con el método preferido de transmisión, tan pronto como sea posible, pero a

más tardar veinticinco (25) días antes de la fecha de la Votación de la Reunión de Distrito Especial (6 de junio de 2025). Independientemente del método preferido de transmisión, las boletas militares deben recibirse por correo o devolverse en persona a la Oficina del Secretario del Distrito a más tardar a las 5:00 p.m. (hora prevaleciente) el día de la votación de la reunión especial del distrito para que se cuenten.

5/7/2025
Lauren Gunderson,
Secretaria de Distrito
Distrito de Bibliotecas
Especiales de Smithtown

270590 5/15 4x ts

NOTICE OF FORMATION, SEA-GAR FISHING LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/29/2025. Office location: Suffolk County, New York SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail copies of any process served against the LLC to: c/o the LLC, 2 Breezy Hill Drive, Fort Salonga, NY 11768. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity

271300 5/22 6x ts

Notice of formation of East End Rentals LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 5/08/2025. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY, 11228 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

272450 5/22 6x ts

Notice of formation Zelaya & Son Construction LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/18/2025. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 94 Hilltop Drive, Brentwood, New York 11717. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

273970 5/29 6x ts

Elz Fractional Partners LLC Notice is hereby given that Elz Fractional Partners LLC filed Articles of Organization with the New York Department of State on March 4, 2025. The office of the LLC is located in Suffolk County, New York. The New York Secretary of State has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process to 49 Pleasant Ave, Centereach, NY 11720. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity.

276590 6/12 6x ts

Notice of formation of Demand Werk LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/01/2025. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 3 Hollow Road, Stony Brook, NY, 11790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

278070 6/26 6x ts

Dog park proposal for last forest in Nesconset gets rejected by Suffolk residents

BY CAROLINE O'CALLAGHAN
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

During the May 29 Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board Meeting, board representatives introduced a proposal for a dog park of about 5-10 acres to be built in Walter S. Commerdingers Jr. County Park forest located off of Browns Road in Nesconset.

PROPERTY Residents chose to express their profound concerns over the threat of deforestation to not only the last untouched forest in Nesconset but all of Long Island's forests. One of those residents was Mary-Anne Smith, who subsequently started a petition on change.org to spotlight the issue.

In her petition titled Save the Last Forest of Nesconset, Smith asks "the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board and Suffolk County Parks Department to please reconsider the location [of the dog park] and prioritize preserving natural spaces and forest, and utilize other alternative open space options in the area."

Smith went on to list the potential impacts

of building the dog park, including its harm to both wildlife and humans. Some wildlife in the proposed area are at a higher risk of being harmed than others. They include eastern box turtles, northern long-eared bats and common nighthawks. Other less affected animals listed were resident and migratory songbirds, a pair of great horned owls, deer, turkeys and foxes.

For the human residents of the Browns Road and Edgewood Avenue area, Smith brought to light the risks of developing the space, such as increases in road flooding, pollution run-off, property taxes, air-conditioning and electricity costs of nearby homes and urban heat island effect. Smith also said that the proposed dog park would create a decline in property values.

One of the chief complaints listed on the petition was the legality of the dog park proposal. This is due to the forest being a county park, which requires the approval of the county or park authority for any further development to be done. In order for the proposal to be legal, a

core group of residents or public supporters must first form a demonstration, choose the



Photo courtesy of change.org

site of the potential park, create a budget and finally present their own proposal for the dog park to the designated authorities.

Based on Smith's petition, it is unclear if this process was followed accordingly, which suggests that the proposal may not have been supported by the public in the first place. Smith expressed that she was "not against the idea of [more] dog parks" but rather opposed the unnecessary expulsion of the ecosystem in which the forest plays host to given the limited forests left on Long Island. She also mentioned

how the Gibbs Pond Dog Park is less than a mile away from the site. This was to suggest that building a second park in close proximity to Gibbs would be redundant.

Ultimately, the petition amassed over 700 signatures, resulting in the decision of policymakers to no longer develop the Nesconset forest into a dog park. Smith thanked the signers, stating, "because of your support, our voices were heard!"

For more information visit the website Save the Last Forest of Nesconset: www.change.org

Extreme heat prompts emergency declaration for Suffolk County

BY LYNN HALLARMAN
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

HEALTH Governor Hochul declared a state of emergency in 32 counties, including Suffolk County on June 22. Local temperatures on Tuesday, June 24 reached a high of 95 degrees with a heat index—how the heat feels—as high as 105. Hochul urged New Yorkers to "stay vigilant and safe" as extreme heat blankets the area. The heat advisory was in affect until 7:00 pm that evening.

When temperature and humidity soar, the result is not just discomfort— it can be life-threatening, especially for older adults and those with chronic health conditions.

What is extreme heat?

Extreme heat causes more deaths than all other weather-related hazards, including hurricanes, major floods and winter storms, according to the National Weather Service.

The heat index measures how the body perceives extreme heat. Rising humidity combined with temperature makes it feel far hotter than a thermometer alone suggests. Heat Islands—or environments with a high concentration of cement—trap heat and intensify the danger.

Signs of heat stress

Heat cramps are often the first sign of heat-

related illness and can be accompanied by weakness, fatigue, headache, nausea and fainting.

Heatstroke or hyperthermia is a life-threatening complication of heat stress that occurs when your body temperature rises to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, combined with symptoms such as confusion, hot, dry skin, hallucinations, headache or nausea. At this point, the body's ability to regulate temperature breaks down, resulting in deadly spikes in core temperature.



A place to cool off in at the Jeanne Garant Harborfront Park in Port Jefferson. Photo by Lynn Hallarman

Heatstroke is a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately. Move the person to a cool environment and apply cool cloths. Do not give fluids, according to medical advice from the National Weather Service.

Who is most at risk?

Older adults are among the most impacted by extreme heat, as their ability to adapt to sudden heat declines. Additionally, symptoms of heatstroke can be subtle and easily missed in frail older adults; in fact, some older adults may not recognize they're overheating. In this population, symptoms can be vague, sometimes appearing only as confusion or slurred speech. Untreated heatstroke can lead to death, especially in the older adult population, even in times when there isn't an official heat wave declaration.

Adults over the age of 65 make up the largest group of emergency room visits related to extreme heat events. People with chronic health conditions are also at greater risk of death during extreme heat.

Certain medications, like some antidepressants, can worsen the effects of high temperatures. In extreme heat, deaths may also occur from heart attacks or worsened respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma.

Dangerous misconceptions

Never rely on a fan as your main cooling source when it is very hot and humid for extended periods. Do not wait until extreme signs of heat appear, especially in older adults. Once the body's core temperature regulation fails during heatstroke, it can be difficult or impossible to reverse.

How to prepare

Always have a plan in place for dealing with a heatwave. Most importantly, stay indoors as much as possible and drink plenty of water—do not wait until you are thirsty.

Older adults should identify a nearby cooling center or ensure at least one room in the home has an air conditioning unit. A fan is not enough. Never leave a child or pet in a hot car— even for five minutes.

To learn more about how extreme heat affects older adults, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/heat-health/risk-factors/heat-and-older-adults-aged-65.html>

Lynn Hallarman is a physician and the former director of palliative care at Stony Brook medicine.