

NOVEMBER 2020 | 9th Year, Issue 11

the Tide

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Community rallies for beautification

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Elections

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County septic announcement

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PHOTO BY PAMELA MORRISON

Wall Street Agencies Re-Affirm Brookhaven Town's Top Triple-A Rating



Supervisor Edward P. Romaine



BrookhavenNY.gov



Councilman Daniel Panico

Town Budget Stays Within the Tax Cap

Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico are pleased to report that Moody's Investor Services has re-affirmed the Town of Brookhaven's Aaa credit rating. In addition, Standard & Poor's assigned their own rating of AAA. Both indicated a "stable outlook" for the Town's fiscal position. The ratings are the highest issued by the two services and identifies the Town's financial position as the highest quality and considered high quality investment grade. Moody's cited the Town's "continued strong financial management which will likely maintain a strong financial position." Visit BrookhavenNY.gov for more information.

"By making surgical reductions, we are able to control spending, protect taxpayers and maintain Town services during these difficult economic times." *Supervisor Ed Romaine*

"Brookhaven taxpayers can rest assured that their elected officials continue to protect their interests and hold the line on taxes." *Councilman Dan Panico*

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Watering Main Street's flowers

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

For the Downtown Beautification Organization, summertime and holiday flowers in Center Moriches keep Main Street beautiful.

"The community loves it, and they look forward to it," said Geraldine Sapanaro, representing the organization, which is a subsidiary of the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches.

Sapanaro, who is also the treasurer of the chamber, explained that Mark Danowski, of Allstate Insurance, spearheaded the watering of the flowers alongside volunteers. Danowski said that they have been watering for the last 11 years.

"This is the best year we have ever had with the flowers," Danowski said. "I think it has a lot to do with the volunteers watering them."

Between the summer and winter flowers, Danowski said the costs ride up higher than \$5,000. Sapanaro said that the chamber and organization have been applying for grants for the purchase of golf carts and watering tanks.

"The idea is to enhance Main Street to help our local businesses," Sapanaro said.

Both Sapanaro and Danowski pointed out the necessity of the flowers and other beautification ventures in order to maintain a sense of normalcy in the



Local volunteers are responsible for maintaining the flowers on Main Street in Center Moriches.

MT/WASZYNSKI

community, considering the effects of the pandemic.

"We thought it was very important to get the flowers back up considering COVID-19," Danowski said. "There has got to be some normalcy, and we want people to drive down and see the nice flowers. Definitely a bright spot this year."

The organization urges residents to donate at their GoFundMe page, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/center-moriches-beautification>, in order to continue the flower basket program and help fund other anti-litter and beautification initiatives in Center Moriches. ■

Volunteers have been vital to the basket program

Listed are the volunteers who have participated in watering flowers on Main Street in Center Moriches as part of the flower basket program: Joanne and Matthew Albino, John Bunning, Danielle Dench, Jill Gentry, Mary Hart, Tashara Henderson, Kim Hennessey, Jennifer Johnson, Michelle Papa, Charlene Porter.

KEITH'S CORNER

Be thankful; join Keith

November is the beginning of a busy holiday season at Helping Makes U Happy. While we are still continuing our gently used shoe drive until Nov. 12, we have also begun to collect coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. There are more people than ever in need of some warm outerwear and we've already held a free coat giveaway where we handed out 35 coats in a little over an hour. Your donation of any of these items can be placed in our beige drop closet in front of the HMUH building at 1 Neville St., Center Moriches, or in the box Carlos Pizza of Manorville so generously displays for us each year. We are excited to announce that we will be partnering up with another local nonprofit, Caitlyn's Vision, to provide Thanksgiving baskets for people in need. Our founder Keith, and Caitlyn's Vision founder, Caitlyn Michiels (pictured right), will be

organizing food drives throughout the area for non-perishable Thanksgiving items and grocery store gift cards for purchasing turkeys. We hope to be able to help as many people as we can and if we are fortunate enough to have surplus, those items will be added to Christmas boxes for families referred to us. Speaking of Christmas, Black Friday shopping deals are predicted to begin as early as Nov. 4, and as we know many are more comfortable shopping online this year, we are already working on Christmas lists for the families. If you are interested in donating to the food drive or adopting a family for Christmas please contact us at 631-848-9008 for more information. We hope you know how thankful we are for all of you, and we wish you a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving. ■



Fred Thiele (I,D-Sag Harbor)

BY KATE NALEPINSKI

Lifelong Sag Harbor resident assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-D) has served New York State District 1 for over 25 years.

Thiele, 67, attended Pearson High School in Sag Harbor, graduated from Southampton College and went on to study at Albany Law School. After graduating, he served as a Southampton Town attorney and the East Hampton Planning Board attorney.

In 1987, Thiele ran for office and won. After he worked as a Suffolk County legislator for four years, he served as the Southampton town supervisor for three years.

In 1995, Thiele was elected to the state Assembly, where he has been ever since. NYS District 1 is responsible for Easthampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, and parts of Brookhaven, including East Moriches, Eastport, Center Moriches, Moriches and portions of Manorville, Mastic Beach and Shirley.

Since he's been elected, he said his top priorities have been environment, tax reform and education.

Water quality and land preservation has always been at the forefront, Thiele

said. He has been endorsed by environmental groups including the Sierra Club, Long Island Environmental Voters Forum and League of Conservation Voters.

"Other areas always seem to have this battle between the economy and the environment. But, on eastern Long Island, the environment is the economy," Thiele said. "Between agriculture and fishing and tourism, that's a big part."

He's often associated with the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund, which is tied to the five End-End Assembly Districts, and was one of the first commissioners with the Long Island Pine Barrens Commission.

Thiele has worked to bring additional state funding to Brookhaven schools, he said, fighting hard for the William Floyd School District.

The assemblyman said his office has prioritized constituent service since the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March by helping the public with unemployment insurance, assisting small businesses with loans and loan access, and ensuring the public has access to adequate testing facilities to "drive down the curve."

But it's not just the response to the pandemic, he said; it's about the recov-

ery afterward. He anticipates addressing issues related to unemployment assistance, housing, vaccine dissemination, food insecurity and more – all issues related to the outbreak.

"We want to make sure we keep the economy on its feet and people are getting what they need," Thiele said. "The government's role in this is extremely important," Thiele said. "The government is responsible for keeping those numbers low until we get a vaccine and to start down the road of an economic recovery."

Until the COVID-19 crisis has settled, he said, the government will not have the resources to address other issues.

The pandemic has presented challenges on the campaign trail this year, Thiele said. Traditional methods of campaigning, like going door-to-door or hosting events, are not plausible. He aims to communicate with as many voters as possible, whether it be by phone, social media, mail, e-mail or Zoom.

"It's a different method of having to campaign, and it's been frustrating," he said, "but having been an elected official for 25 years, and people know me and they know my record, I get a good

response and there's still ways to reach out to people. But it's different this year – there's no question."

This year, Thiele will appear on the ballot alongside competitor Heather Collins (Republican, Conservative). According to a representative with the Suffolk County Republican Committee, Collins is not actively campaigning at this time. ■



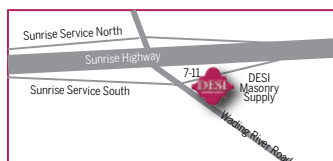
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Bellone signs legislation to reduce nitrogen levels

Business districts gain access to better wastewater treatment

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone signed historic legislation on Thursday, Oct. 15, to require the use of nitrogen-reducing wastewater technologies in unsewered areas of the county for all new construction. It also allows greater flexibility for the use of small sewer plants in downtown business districts.

“What this legislation means today is that we are continuing to make good on our commitment and our promise that we are going to protect and preserve water quality in Suffolk County because it means everything to us,” Bellone said in front of Lake Ronkonkoma recently.

Others speaking at the press conference referenced Bellone’s listed No. 1 priority since he took office: a commitment to restoring water quality, drinking water quality, and coastal ecosystems. Bellone praised the advancements in technology and the work accomplished by the septic industry.

“We said that nitrogen was public enemy No. 1. This industry: this was all old technology that we were utilizing, and there were pioneers who stepped forward and businesses that stepped forward,” Bellone

said. “Without the industry in place, you cannot snap your fingers or turn on a switch and all of a sudden have the infrastructure necessary to reverse decades of damage that had occurred. There had to be an infrastructure and an ecosystem built in order to make it work, and that was that industry’s system.”

Dr. Chris Gobler, the chair of coastal ecology and conservation at School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences director for the New York State Center for Clean Water Technology, said that this legislation is a game changer for Suffolk County.

“The story of Suffolk County and water and the coastal environments is one that you could start as saying went from first to worst,” said Gobler, referencing the clam and scallop fisheries in the 1980s being the largest on the East Coast. “From that point forward, Suffolk County witnessed the collapse of both of those fisheries to the point where the landings dropped to less than 1 percent of what they were in the 1980s. We saw the nitrogen levels increase by up to 200 percent from that period to today due to on-site septic systems.”

Gobler said that the Bellone administration and its commitment to water quality was a turning point in the county.

“When it comes to advanced treatment of wastewater, which we knew caused all these collapses, Suffolk County went from worst to first,” Gobler said. “We are looking all across the country and around the globe



Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone stands before Lake Ronkonkoma with the environmental leaders in the county to announce historic legislation on decreasing nitrogen levels.

at what people are doing when it comes to treating on-site wastewater. I can say with confidence that today there is no better program for installing advanced septic systems anywhere in the country than there is here in Suffolk County. They knew it was a monumental task. They took it slow. They did it right. The program has been enormously successful.”

Gobler also referenced the 380,000 unsewered homes in the county. And Kevin McDonald of the Nature Conservancy said that the action of replacing the old with new, individual/advanced wastewater treatment systems will remove roughly 20,000 pounds of nitrogen every year out of the environment in a compounding way. This means that the following year would see twice the removal due to the additional

installations that year.

“This is a significant, monumental event in Suffolk County’s environmental history,” McDonald said. “This is a dramatic improvement over Roman technology.”

Kevin McAllister, president of Defend H2O, said that the growing effects of wastewater treatment that is used today in Suffolk County as well as the influences due to climate change severely threaten water quality on Long Island. He also referenced water quality as a priority issue in the county and the region, and congratulated Bellone and the Suffolk County Legislature for their efforts, considering a unanimous yes vote on the bill.

“Today, we celebrate meaningful progress towards that goal with the adoption of progressive sanitary amendments,” McAllister said. “The Suffolk Legislature is commended for demonstrating its commitment, and in particular executive Steve Bellone for instituting an effective, forward-looking program that delivers.”

Mitch Pally, CEO of the Long Island Builders Institute, pointed out how the legislation opens the door for development.

“This is going to be a game changer for the development community in Suffolk County,” he said. “The ability to use the Appendix A systems in larger, mid-sized development projects, to help renovate our downtowns, to help renovate our other areas where development is appropriate is going to be a significant ability to build this type of housing.” ■



Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone signed historic legislation to ensure decreasing nitrogen levels in county groundwater, drinking water, and coastal ecosystems. Pictured is Bellone speaking about the bill with Kevin McAllister from Defend H2O.



Dr. Chris Gobler, the chair of coastal ecology and conservation at School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and director for the New York State Center for Clean Water Technology, said that this legislation is a game changer for Suffolk County.

Courtesy photos

the Tide

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Nancy Goroff (D)

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

Challenger Nancy Goroff is seeking congressman Lee Zeldin's seat in the House of Representatives. Goroff, running on the Democratic ticket, is a scientist who has taught and done research at Stony Brook University for the last 23 years. She has also lived in Suffolk County for the last 23 years, raising her two teenage daughters.

At Stony Brook, Goroff held the title of chair for a 300-person department with a multi-million-dollar budget.

"That means I had to be ready to deal with whatever came across my desk each day, and had to be ready to make tough decisions and then defend those decisions by the people who care about them," said Goroff, continuing on to say that she also runs a research lab. "I developed new materials for solar energy. I had to come up with innovative research ideas based on facts and evidence and then pitched those ideas to get support, and then do the research and then figure out what it all means

[and] looking at evidence and analyzing it to come up with a solution."

Goroff said that helping her students make a better future for themselves — whether in the classroom or in the lab — has been her favorite part about being at the university.

"I worked really hard to make the university a better place. When I was associate provost, an interim dean, and instructor of chemistry, that same drive is what drives me now," she said. "What the people of Stony Brook and the people of this district need is somebody who is going to go down to Washington and try to make things better there. It is the same motivation for me to see I need to get involved with the national level."

Discussing her platform, Goroff highlighted that effectively addressing the public health crisis is atop the priority list.

"How do we get out of the pandemic and how do we get out from the economic crisis that has resulted from the pandemic? That is my top priority; we need to get ahead of and hold off the pandemic, which means sending very clear messages about

the importance of wearing masks in public, having testing that is available, fast, free, so that we can actually use testing both for contact tracing, which is really important, and also make sure people aren't going to work or to school if they actually are contagious," she said.

As the pandemic is directly relevant to the economic crisis, too, Goroff said that federal monies are absolutely needed on Long Island. She pointed out that the federal government is the only entity that can financially assist the local municipalities as well as the school districts.

Thirdly, Goroff talked about climate change, which she said is the initial motivation for her joining the race.

"It has the same or bigger potential over time to be disruptive to our lives and the lives of people all over the globe [as the pandemic]," Goroff said. "Sea-level rise, coastal erosion, extreme weather events: those are our biggest national security risks because of movement of people around the globe, because of changing climates and droughts and



Challenger Nancy Goroff is running for the 1st Congressional District seat in the House of Representatives against incumbent Lee Zeldin.

floods around the globe."

Goroff has been present in the *Tide's* readership. She has demonstrated at a USPS rally in August in Bellport as well as a Black Lives Matter movement in early June (also in Bellport). Her team has also disseminated advertisements of her campaign through commercials, phone banks, and other methods throughout the district. ■

Lee Zeldin (R,C)

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

Republican incumbent Lee Zeldin is seeking a fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives for New York's 1st Congressional District. Zeldin lives and has created a family in Shirley. He also grew up in Shirley and attended the William Floyd School District, which his two daughters now attend.

"My days begin and end when I am home, inside the area of [The *Tides*] readership," said Zeldin, adding that he is the second congressman from the Mastic-Shirley peninsula, with only William Floyd preceding him. "When I am out at a supermarket with my family, there are constant conversations up and down just about every aisle with neighbors and constituents. Sometimes, it is small talk. Sometimes, it is a bit heavier. Sometimes, I am giving out a business card and connecting them with someone who works in my office to help them on an issue that we might be of assistance. I live my life inside the area of [The *Tide's*] readership."

Discussing his platform, Zeldin said that tackling the health pandemic is the top priority.

"We need to get a vaccine over the

finish line and help more individuals and families and local governments emerge from the other side of this outbreak stronger than they were before," he said, adding that there are extensive measures necessary to accomplish this. "It requires a lot of continued nonpartisan spurts to get key victories over the finish line."

Zeldin pointed out that the connection between public health and the economy is even more intertwined now.

"In response to the coronavirus pandemic, I worked very closely with leaders from all levels of government on both sides of the aisle, and I thought that the right approach was not to view [the] response being a Republican first or a Democrat first, but as being a Long Islander first or being a New Yorker first or an American first," he said, continuing on to say that he received a request from Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone when the county stockpile ran out of key items of personal protective equipment. "Within minutes, we were making progress directly with the White House."

In less than 24 hours, 200,000 N95 masks were delivered to Suffolk County, and that number doubled in

the following 24 to 48 hours.

"All of the work responding to the outbreak was a product of everybody working together with the right non-partisan spirit," Zeldin said.

Zeldin said that during 2020, he and his team were able to secure important victories in the 1st Congressional District, especially in terms of the economy and job creation on Long Island.

"At the beginning of the year, I was honored to make the announcement on behalf of the Department of Energy that a \$2 billion electron ion collider was coming to Brookhaven National Lab, which is going to create thousands of jobs and conduct humanity-changing research over the course of 20, 25, 30-plus years," he said.

He summed up his platform by saying that it is important to build off of the accomplishments as well as overcome any still-existing challenges. Zeldin mentioned the Fire Island to Montauk Point Plan and said more work needs to be done by the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We had five key items for New York won inside of [the water resources bill], including the Chiefs Report for the Fire Island to Mon-



Incumbent Lee Zeldin is running for a fourth term against Democratic challenger Nancy Goroff.

tauk Point Plan, which is an over \$1 billion project to build our coastline on the South Shore stronger than it has ever been in our history," he said, adding that the item just passed the House in July. ■



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WF names new athletic director

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

A name well known in the William Floyd School District takes the reins of athletics for the entire district. Brian Babst, a former three-sport all-county star for Floyd, has also played the role of health and physical education teacher, football coach, chairperson of physical education and athletics, and now athletic director.

“I graduated 23 years ago, and now I am in charge of all athletics in the district. It really is an amazing experience that I have been through and had here at Floyd.”

Babst was the captain of the varsity football, basketball, and lacrosse teams during high school.

“I was a kid that just loved sports. I wanted to play and do as much as I can. I was fortunate enough to be part of two unbelievable coaches in Paul Longo and Bob Hodgson, who always had the gyms open and always here and available.”

Babst ended up playing football at SUNY Cortland, a two-way starter all four years as a wide receiver and safety. While at the school, he broke the record for receiving yards and posted second all-time statistics for receptions and receiving touchdowns.

“It was an amazing experience,” Babst said. “It felt a little different to wear a different color besides green. Wearing the red and white was always an uncomfortable feeling for me for a long time. Even now, anything red feels funny to me.”

He said he has lived in the Floyd community since kindergarten, aside from his four years at SUNY Cortland. Babst said that the community is special to him.

“As a kid and a student here, I had so many positive relationships, whether it was the teachers or coaches or even administration,” he said. “It is really an honor and a blessing for me to be able to come back here and work. The idea of going anywhere else has never really crossed my mind. I was fortunate enough to get a position here right out of college as a young teacher. I love it here.”

Over his 13-year bout as the district’s varsity football coach, Babst led the team to 10 Suffolk County championships and five Long Island championships.

“We have had a very successful program over the last 20 years,” he said of the district’s football program.

And Babst has worked as the chairperson for physical education and



Athletic director Brian Babst stands before a sea of green banners in the high school gymnasium.

Courtesy photos

athletics for the last six years. In his 19th year working in the district, Babst said that becoming the athletic director is a dream come true.

“It was never a position I aspired to be. I always just wanted to be a teacher and a coach,” Babst said. “As I kind of work through the system and move myself up, I find myself working with more people and as a whole crew and taking a natural leadership role as a teacher and coach, working with young coaches.”

“When the chair position became available, I really expanded my horizons in the administrative and leadership side of it. I feel like I was able to be in contact and work with so many more kids and affect so many more kids that it kind of became a natural transition into the athletic director role,” Babst added.

In 2007, while coaching for the district, Babst was inducted into the William Floyd Athletic Hall of Fame. The year 2007 was the first class of inductees into the Hall of Fame.

“It is an incredible honor for my accomplishments as an athlete in high school and college to be recognized,” Babst said, adding that he is extremely grateful for the full support from his wife, Meredith, and kids, Brendan, 9, and Julia, 8.

Babst said that he is extremely excited, sliding into the position on Aug. 4, the beginning of this academic year.

“It is an honor and a pleasure to

work with a great group of teachers and coaching staff,” he said. ■



Brian Babst was a two-way starter for the varsity football team at wide receiver and safety.

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Safe advice about Halloween

BY LEGIS. ROB CALARCO

In 1918, as the United States dealt with the Spanish flu pandemic, cities across the country called on their residents to have a different kind of Halloween. At that time, the holiday was more of an opportunity for adults to have costume parties, and for boys and young men to pull pranks and commit vandalism. During the pandemic, cities banned or discouraged these traditions and called on residents to be respectful of those who might be sick or have lost a loved one. Overall, people observed these restrictions knowing that what they were doing was for the benefit of the community.



The *Buffalo Express* reported on that year's Halloween, saying, "Hallowe'en revels lack the spirit of previous affairs."

This year we are again asking Americans to be safe as they celebrate Halloween. COVID-19 is still with us, and while our infection rates do remain low, there is still a risk to us all. That does not mean we cannot celebrate all things spooky this year. We can still find creative ways to enjoy the day and take precautions to minimize potential spread of the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has characterized traditional trick-or-treating, where treats are handed to children who go door to door, as a high-risk activity. To avoid this risk, consider participating in one-way trick-or-treating. This is when individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab

and-go while continuing to social distance. Try to avoid placing large bowls of treats where children have to grab out of the same container. These treats can be placed at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard. You can communicate whether you are participating in the festivities by placing a sign on your yard. Also, if you are wearing a costume mask, remember that it is not a replacement for a cloth mask. Instead, consider incorporating a cloth mask into your costume this year.

If you are looking for a safe outdoor adventure, consider heading over to Southaven County Park in Yaphank, which has been taken over by Gateway's Haunted Playhouse in partnership with Suffolk County. The Gateway has created a drive-through haunted trail experience called "The Forgotten Road," which includes sounds and sights outside the car as well as a narrative that can be listened to over your car's sound system. Additionally, the Patchogue-Medford Library is offering a Halloween Story Walk. This is a self-guided quest for the entire family. You can pick up your map at the Children's Department Information Desk during library hours or print your map and story questions from home at any time to navigate your way through Patchogue Village by following a story. Those who complete the quest will receive a Halloween surprise at the end.

With a different kind of Halloween celebration this year, it is going to take us all working together to keep each other safe. There are plenty of precautions to make sure that we all have fun while not contributing to the spread of COVID-19. By following these easy guidelines and doing more socially distanced activities, we can all do our part and stay safe.

We encourage all readers, elected officials and public figures to contribute op-ed articles giving their personal views on local issues, current events or day-to-day life. All submissions 600 words or less will be considered for publication.

New glass drop-off location in Center Moriches

As a result of such a positive response to the Brookhaven Town's glass recycling program, supervisor Ed Romaine and councilman Dan Panico have announced that the Department of Recycling and Sustainable Materials Management (RSM) has expanded the glass recycling drop-off locations. The new glass drop-off site is in the parking lot of the Center Moriches Library, located at 235 Montauk Highway in Center Moriches. At every location there are three bins for green, brown and clear glass. Currently, the glass is largely reused for municipal operations wherever sand is needed – road base for internal roads, drainage, construction of landfill, etc. By separating glass by color, the town has opened the door for larger-scale glass recycling and is currently in discussion with regional glass recyclers to establish a long-term program. Pictured left to right are Center Moriches Library director Marcie Litjens, supervisor Ed Romaine, Center Moriches Library head of reference and technology Bob Chesnut and Town of Brookhaven recycling coordination aide Zachary Sicardi.

The glass recycling drop-off locations in the Town of Brookhaven are:

- Brookhaven Town Hall One Independence Hill, Farmingville
- Brookhaven Landfill 350 Horseblock Road, Brookhaven (Open M-F 7am to 2:45pm, Sat-Sun 7am to 12 noon)
- Manorville Compost Facility Papermill Road, Manorville (Open 7am to 3pm / closed 11:50am – 12:30pm)
- Holtsville Ecology Center 249 Buckley Road, Holtsville (Open Mon-Fri 9am to 3pm)
- Rose Caracappa Sr. Center 739 Route 5A, Mt. Sinai
- New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
- Town of Brookhaven Parking Lot Across from Three Village Inn, 150 Main Street, Stony Brook
- Henrietta Acampora Recreation Center 39 Montauk Highway, Blue Point
- Mastic Recreation Center 15 Herkimer Street, Mastic
- Fireman's Field 25 Middle Country Road, Ridge
- Comsewogue Library 170 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station
- Center Moriches Library 235 Montauk Highway, Center Moriches

Go to www.BrookhavenNY.gov/recycle for more information about the Town's Recycling program, including the Curbside Recycling Schedule, Acceptable Recycling Materials Guide and Recycling Special Events.

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Anthony Palumbo (R, C)

BY KATE NALEPINSKI

Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk) was elected to serve the 2nd Assembly District constituents in 2013 and is now running for state Senate, long-held by Sen. Ken LaValle, who is not seeking another term.

Born and raised in Patchogue, Palumbo earned his bachelor's degree in government and law from Lafayette College and his Juris Doctor degree from St. John's Law School.

Palumbo, 50, who currently resides in New Suffolk, served as a Suffolk County prosecutor and assistant district attorney for many years, is a former assistant district attorney in Suffolk County.

At the time of his retirement, senator LaValle (R-Port Jefferson) endorsed Palumbo and asked him to run as his successor after 44 years in office.

Palumbo said one of his top priorities is repealing the 2019 law that ended cash bail for most nonviolent crimes. If elected, he aims to fund the police and provide them with adequate resources to increase public safety, he said.

"The police are what make our communities desirable. Who in their right

mind wants to invest in a small business that's in a dangerous community? No one," he said. "People want to invest in safe communities that are well-policed."

Palumbo, whose father was a Suffolk County homicide detective, said that defunding the police is "counterintuitive to a successful state."

Palumbo, who serves as the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, also has a focus on criminal justice reform.

"Right now, I think public safety is a major issue," he said, and aims to repeal bail reform. Under current standards, he said, defendants in court need to receive a witness statement and witness identification information in 45 days.

Palumbo said he's been campaigning for the senate seat in Moriches and the surrounding area. He's also campaigned in Manorville, which is in his assembly district.

His first bill was the First Time Home Buyer Exemption, he said, which provides an exemption from the preservation tax which saves first-time home buyers who are eligible money up to 4,500 at closing in taxes.

Palumbo said he will push for envi-

ronmental protection. He's been part of the effort to expand the Long Island Pine Barrens which had added over 830 acres in Shoreham, NY, hopes to utilize the Community Preservation Fund for additional water-quality projects. The CFP has been extended to 2050.

"In the next few years, I think we'll want to expand those funds because they've brought in record funding this year with the influx of people on the East End," he said. "But I think something like that, which addresses water quality, is a major issue."

For jobs and taxes, he said the assembly has been working to "foster an innovation corridor starting from Nassau County all the way to Plum Island," which would offer new jobs to the public. He also said he will seek state funding to lower property taxes in the county.

"Sen. LaValle always said his vision — and I've supported it, to really transform the area — is to make this a destination place, almost like Silicon Valley, for technology," he said.

Palumbo pointed out that most STEM students from Stony Brook University are leaving Long Island to find work elsewhere. By providing more local tech

jobs, it will provide a greater tax base and "improve the way of life." ■



Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo, who served as a Suffolk County prosecutor and assistant district attorney for many years, is running against challenger Laura Ahearn.

Courtesy photo

Laura Ahearn (D)

BY KATE NALEPINSKI

Laura Ahearn (D-Port Jefferson), a licensed attorney and social worker who founded nonprofits Crime Victims Center and Ronkonkoma-based Parents for Megan's Law nearly 25 years ago, is running for state Senate.

Ahearn, 56, grew up in Patchogue and spent much of her younger years fishing in the area. She earned her bachelor's degree from Dowling College, master's from Stony Brook University, and law degree from Touro College. It was then, she said, that she grew interested in running for state Senate.

"I have fought for 25 years to protect our most vulnerable, and now I want to protect the issues that are important to us," she said.

Ahearn serves as the executive director of the Crime Victims Center, which has expanded to a staff of nearly 30 and has served over 30,000 victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, gang violence, human trafficking, hate crime, terrorism and more. Ahearn said she has helped to return over \$6 million to crime victims.

"I've wanted to be in a position to effect change my whole life, and that's what I've done in the Crime Victims Center," she said.

Ahearn also serves as chair of the Suffolk County Family Violence Task Legal Systems Subcommittee and as the victims' services representative of the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. When she served as the victims' services representative of the county's Hate Crimes Task Force, she submitted a report to the U.S. Department of Justice, which created a Hate Crime Prevention Program.

One of her top priorities, she said, is the fight for "our fair share" and access to quality health care for all.

Another goal, she said, is to continue the effort to protect the environment, address climate change and transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. She hopes to do this in part through the New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, passed in 2019.

Ahearn hopes to protect drinking water sources in part by reducing nitrogen in Long Island's aquifers and surface and ocean water.

If elected, she said she aims to start a COVID-19 pandemic unit — which will ensure that necessary protective equipment and resources are readily available to medical professionals.

She is opposed to defunding police enforcement, she said, and noted that she

has worked closely with law enforcement and elected officials to offer educational programs at public and private schools related to domestic and sexual violence, and more.

For her, modifying bail reform is also a priority. She hopes to change bail reform to give judges discretion to prevent violent offenders from being released and to strengthen victims' rights laws.

Ahearn hopes to improve small businesses and invest in infrastructure to create new job opportunities. She said she'll invest in community-based youth programs and law enforcement training, and hopes to direct more funding to drug-addicted individuals.

The Port Jefferson native said she has been campaigning differently during COVID-19 and has prioritized voter contact by phone calling, texting and digital marketing.

Ahearn said this election is "crucial" because the Democrats hold the delegation on Long Island.

"If someone in the minority — a Republican — is in any one of those Senate seats, they will not be able to deliver legislation, nor funds, directly," she said.

Ahearn has received an endorsement from U.S. senators Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirstin Gillibrand (D-N.Y.),

other state senators, and over 40 others, she said. ■



Licensed attorney and social worker Laura Ahearn, who founded nonprofits Crime Victims Center and Parents for Megan's Law nearly 25 years ago, is running against assemblyman Anthony Palumbo for state Senate.

Courtesy photo

AROUND TOWN

Thursday, November 12

Career Counseling – The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library offers one-on-one advice from Career Counselor Stephanie Loviglio, 8 p.m. Get help with resumes, interviewing strategies, searches, and other career concerns. To register or get a list of additional appointment times, call Tara Moran at 631-399-1511, ext. 240.

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

Monday, November 30

Get Crafty with Ms. Erica – The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library craft program for teens, 6-7 p.m. Pick up craft kits in the Teen Dept. and join Ms. Erica online via Zoom. Registered participants will receive login information. Call 631-399-1511.

Of Note ...

Homebound Library Services – Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Library patrons who are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent illness or disability, or for individuals who are frail and elderly and don't have transportation may apply for the library's Homebound/Books by Mail Program. With this free service, homebound patrons can receive library materials delivered free of charge. Apply by calling Ellen at 631-399-1511 ext. 249.

Projection Mapping Video Release – PACConnected | MoCA LIghts Virtual Lab have released a video, "Mad Magic with artist Kelley Bell," explaining how the fascinating process of projection mapping works. To find out more, visit <https://patchoguearts.org/virtual-labprojection-mapping-demo>.

Skillport Online Trainings – Dress for Success® Brookhaven offers comprehensive e-Learning with a library of over 8,000 courses, available 24/7. To register, call 631-451-9127 or email brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org.

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Brainfuse Adult Learning – The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library has a free online center for adult learners. Access the center online at www.communitylibrary.org. Live online help available from 1 to 11 p.m. weekly. On the website, select Learn New Skills: Academic Assistance Online. Brainfuse Adult Learning Center features test preparation (including GED and U.S. citizenship prepara-

tion), writing assistance, and study tools for math, reading and writing. Live, online one-on-one interaction with a tutor or job coach is available. Live sessions can be conducted in English or Spanish.

Food Pantry – Word of Life Ministries, 15 Frowein Rd., Center Moriches, will open its Angel Food Pantry Mondays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Call 631-208-4050.

Free Art Alliance Membership – Long Island Arts Alliance is waiving individual and organizational membership fees for the year in recognition of the COVID-19 realities facing the region's arts and cultural organizations. To sign up, visit www.longislandartsalliance.org/join-the-alliance.

Free Food for Seniors – The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is offering free food for seniors age 60 and over who meet income guidelines. Food packages include cheese, milk, starches, cereals, juices, canned fish, meats, vegetables and more. Call 631-491-4156 for information.

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

NOVEMBER 1945

The pet parade that was held by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Center Moriches for the benefit of the war memorial fund proved a great success. First prize for Most Unusual Pet went to **Frank Baker's** goat; second prize was won by **Benjamin Rybicki**, who had a peacock; third prize went **Sharon Wenzel**, who had guinea pigs; and fourth prize went to **Joan Belli's** raccoon.

In a spelling bee sponsored by the Merriam Webster company and conducted in the Center Moriches High School by English teacher **Ms. Ruth F. Wood**, the winners were: first-place, **Gwendolyn Lukert**; second, **Myrtle Weiser**; and third, **Louise Strebel**.

Lt. Kathleen M. Mahana, of East Moriches, has been promoted to her current rank. She is on duty at the Naval dispensary at Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash.

Scoutmaster **Florie Bruno** accompanied the East Moriches Scouts on a pilgrimage to Theodore Roosevelt's grave. Those who made the trip were **Joseph Edwards, Richard Edwards, Joseph Lemmen, George Dunlap, John Lowell, Billie McPhail, Clifford Brown** and **Edward Grenetela**.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hallock, of Atlantic Avenue, East Moriches, celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary at their home, which was decorated with chrysanthemums of many colors.

At the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of the Moriches in the Long Island Hotel, **Louis Lukert** presented as guest speaker of the evening **Pa-Pan-Ka-Witko**, or Crazy Bull, a member of the Sioux Indian tribe. His topic was "The American Indian in Story and Song."

Three brothers of Center Moriches were honorably discharged from the Army a few days apart at Camp Dix, N.J.: **Sgt. Robert B. Tooker**, paratrooper; **Sgt. Charles R. Tooker**, A.A.F.; and **Sgt. Everett A. Tooker**, Signal Corps.

Lt. Elizabeth Brooks, of Center Moriches, is now home on a 90-day furlough before receiving her discharge from the Nursing Corps.

Caroline Smith and **Virginia Howell** are on the committee for the "Thanksgiving Shingdig" to be held in Center Moriches High School.

Ms. Beverly Wooley is taking up the work of the Music Department in the Center Moriches High School. She is a graduate of Madison College in Virginia and has played violin in various symphony orchestras as well as doing vocal work.

Dorothea Frey, of Eastport, entertained **Janice Alfred, Thelma Farlow** and **Judith Warner** at Shaber's in Patchogue for dinner, after which they attended the Patchogue Theatre.

Mrs. Henrietta Martens, of Lake Avenue, Center Moriches, entertained the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Episcopal Church at her home, where plans were discussed for their December bazaar.

Chris Miller and Lloyd Penney of Center Moriches, are on a hunting trip for several days in the Catskills.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wilcox Jr., of Center Moriches, entertained many guests with a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warner, of East Moriches, attended a serenade for **Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Warner**, who have just returned from their honeymoon.

Playing in November at the Center Moriches Theatre: Gary Cooper and Paulette Goddard in "**Northwest Mounted Police**"; Claudette Colbert and Don Ameche in "**Guest Wife**"; Paul Henreid and Maureen O'Hara in "**The Spanish Main**"; and Barry Fitzgerald and Walter Huston in "**And Then There Were None**."

50 Years Ago

NOVEMBER 1970

The Moriches Rotary Club had **John Byfield**, a representative from the Second Sight Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown, as its guest speaker at its recent meeting. Mr. Byfield presented a film showing training of both dogs and seeing-impaired recipients of the animals. Assisting Mr. Byfield were program chairman **Ray Batt** and Rotary vice president **Al Nooger**.

"The Ghost of John" was the name of a round given by **Mrs. Harriet Vosganian** to all music classes in East Moriches School from fourth

through eighth grades. All students were told to describe in some art form the words of the song as part of a Halloween contest. Grand prize winner was **Donna Burke**, who used black construction paper with Styrofoam, depicting a graveyard scene complete with cobwebs in the windows.

Nancy Goldstein, a seventh-grade student, hopes to represent East Moriches School in the New York Daily News spelling bee to be held sometime next year, after beating out 24 other students in grades 6, 7 and 8 in a spelling bee held at the school.

Spc. Henry F. Caputo, of Center Moriches, was presented a letter of commendation by his superior officer for the "superior manner" in which he presented his observation post on the Czechoslovakian border for several key officers.

Ernest J. Vigliotta, of Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, has been reappointed District Deputy of the Third New York District of the Knights of Columbus for a third term.

Center Moriches High School students **Charles Vosganian** and **Brian Dineem** performed a snare drum duet at a special assembly for students in grades 1-8 at East Moriches School.

Playing in November at local United Artists Theatres: Stanley Kubrick's "**2001: A Space Odyssey**."

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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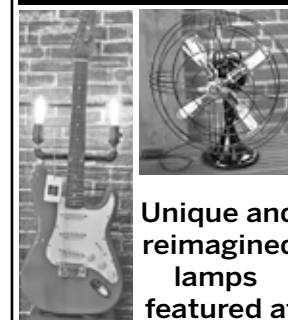


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400 Main Street, Center Moriches, NY 11934

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Brook05

Center Moriches—\$825,000 Unique, Mediterranean style, 3 bedroom ranch on serene 1.9 acres, ROW to bulkheaded waterfront.



Brook27

East Moriches—\$869,900 5 bedroom, 3 bath, custom built Victorian with perfect backyard for entertaining. Will not last!



Brook13

Moriches—\$699,000 Spacious, waterfront Colonial on deep water creek with quick boating access to Moriches Bay! Must see!



Brook26

Center Moriches—\$749,000 Waterfront on protected deep water canal! Charming, 3 bedroom colonial, perfect for boaters!



Brook12

Moriches—\$699,900 Stunning, waterfront location! 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, Post Modern home in Crystal Beach. Don't miss this one!



Brook24

Center Moriches—\$629,000 Custom built, 4 bedroom, 3 bath Contemporary in Wilcox Farms with spacious open floor plan!

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We are looking for new and experienced career minded professional people looking to excel in Real Estate!