

# \$1M in Brookhaven aid

## Grants expected for infrastructure and environment

BY CARL MACGOWAN  
carl.macgowan@newsday.com

Brookhaven Town expects to receive more than \$1 million in state grants for infrastructure improvements and environmental protection projects, including \$375,000 to raze abandoned houses in Mastic Beach.

The grants — including \$988,401 from the Regional Economic Development Council and \$27,347 from the Department of Environmental Conser-

vation — also will be used for a nitrogen removal system in Davis Park, a vacuum truck to remove sediment from storm sewers, and for a project to plant a forest at a vacated East Moriches farm.

“Our bays, beaches and waterways are environmentally fragile and important to our local economy,” Brookhaven Supervisor Edward P. Romaine said in a statement. “We must do everything we can to protect and preserve them for future generations.”

The Mastic Beach project involves removing vacant homes and antiquated infrastructure from tidal wetlands, many of which were devastated in October 2012 by superstorm Sandy.

Town and Suffolk County officials in recent years have purchased several such Mastic Beach properties for the purpose of blocking future development on them.

Town officials plan to rebuild the wetlands and restore natural floodplains, which are expected to absorb the impact of future storms.

The regional economic development grant also includes \$313,401 to build a permeable barrier at the Davis Park marina on Fire Island. Officials said the barrier will reduce nitrogen entering coastal waters, such as Great South Bay. Elevated concentrations of nitrogen can cause eutrophication, hypoxia and algal blooms that

harm marine life.

The town also plans to spend \$300,000 from the grant to buy a vacuum truck to extract sediment and other pollutants that could enter ponds and streams through storm drains.

The DEC “Trees for Tribes” grant will enable the town to reforest the former Smith farm at Bay Avenue and Montauk Highway in East Moriches. Now owned by the town, the property includes a tributary called the Terrel River that runs through the farm from Mill Pond, north of Montauk Highway, and empties into Moriches Bay.

The grant will help pay to prepare the property for new growth and remove invasive plants, town officials said.

## WOMAN, 68, AND GIRL, 4, FIRE VICTIMS

Nassau police Monday identified the woman and child who died after a fire in New Hyde Park as Maria Karpinski, 68, and Brooke Schillizzi, 4.

The cause of the Sunday house fire on North 12th Street, which left a 10-year-old boy injured, was still being investigated, police said Monday. Two other occupants of the house escaped uninjured, officials said.

Detectives with the Nassau County Arson/Bomb Squad deemed the fire noncriminal.

The fire was reported shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday and fully engulfed the house when the New Hyde Park Fire Department responded, police said. The department was assisted by six other departments, police said.

Five occupants were inside, including Karpinski, of New Hyde Park, and the girl, of Massapequa Park, police said. Both were hospitalized and died of their injuries, police said Sunday.

The boy, who police have not identified, escaped jumping out a window, New Hyde Park Fire Department Chief Brian Sherwood said. He was hospitalized and listed in stable condition, officials said Sunday. The boy and victims who died suffered smoke inhalation and burns, officials said. — KESHIA CLUKEY



Patchogue officials canceled its New Year's Eve celebration because of the threat of rain and winds.

## Rained out in Patchogue

The threat of heavy rain and strong winds prompted Patchogue officials to cancel the village's New Year's Eve celebration Monday night.

“It wouldn't have been the safest situation,” said David Kennedy, executive director of the Patchogue Chamber of Commerce, a sponsor of the event dubbed Midnight on Main.

He said event planners made the decision Monday morning after discussing the

dangers that high winds and fireworks posed to participants.

The National Weather Service in Upton said temperatures would be mild, in the 40s and rising to 52 degrees overnight. But forecasters predicted up to 2 inches of rain and wind gusts up to 32 mph.

It would have been the fifth year the village had held the countdown, an event that in each previous year drew

about 3,000 people to the fireworks, noisemakers and dancing at West Avenue and West Main Street.

But Kennedy said revelers would have plenty of alternatives.

“Certainly, every bar and restaurant in Patchogue is still hopping — and so Patchogue is still alive and well tonight, though this event is canceled,” he said. “It's a wonderful place to spend your New Year's Eve.” — ZACHARY R. DOWDY

## Newsday

Long Island Office  
235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY  
11747-4250

### On the Web

For a list of Newsday departments, their emails and telephone numbers, go to [newsday.com/contact](http://newsday.com/contact)

### For Reprints, Rights & Permissions

[NewsdayReprints.com](http://NewsdayReprints.com)

### Home Delivery

800-NEWSDAY  
(800-639-7329)  
[helpme@newsday.com](mailto:helpme@newsday.com)

Newsroom 631-843-2700

Place an Ad/Change an Ad  
631-843-SOLD (7653)

### Letters to the Editor

Email [letters@newsday.com](mailto:letters@newsday.com)

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Today is New Year's Day. Government offices, schools, courts, the financial markets and post offices are closed. No mail will be delivered except for Priority Express.

### CORRECTIONS

Newsday strives for the highest level of accuracy and fairness and is committed to promptly correcting errors. Readers can report problems or concerns about content in the paper or on [Newsday.com](http://Newsday.com) by visiting [newsday.com/corrections](http://newsday.com/corrections), calling 631-843-2700 or writing to 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747, Attention: Corrections.

### THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1818** The first edition of the Gothic novel “Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus” by Mary Shelley, 20, was published anonymously.

**1863** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting U.S. slaves “forever free.”

**1892** Ellis Island Immigrant Station formally opened.

**1954** NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program: The Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

**1959** Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuba's Fulgencio Batista.

**1975** Richard Nixon aides John N. Mitchell, H.R. Halde- man, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian were found guilty of charges in the Watergate cover-up.

**1985** Music cable channel VH1 debuted with a video of Marvin Gaye performing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”