

# ELECTION WORKERS CHARGED

Two in Suffolk, party leader face forgery raps

BY MICHAEL O'KEEFFE  
michael.okeeffe@newsday.com

Two employees of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, as well as an East Hampton Independence Party leader, were charged Tuesday with forging signatures on nominating petitions, in some cases with the names of dead people, District Attorney Timothy Sini said.

The former chairman of the East Hampton Town Republican Party is expected to face similar

charges in court Wednesday.

Board of Elections employee William Mann, 60, of Cutchogue, faces charges of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, first-degree offering a false instrument for filing and two counts of official misconduct. Another employee, Gregory Dickerson, 55, of Mattituck, was charged with two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and two counts of first-degree offering a false instrument for filing.

An affidavit from Robert Maloney, an investigator with Sini's office, said Mann and Dickerson submitted Green Party nominating petitions to the Board of Elections in July that contained

forged signatures, including, in one case, the signature of a person who died in 2014. Mann and Dickerson hoped to get Republican candidates listed under the Green Party on the Nov. 6 ballot to boost GOP chances of victory in last month's election, Sini said.

Independence Party Vice Chairwoman Patricia Mansir, a former East Hampton Town Trustee, was charged with four counts of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and four counts of first-degree offering a false instrument for filing. Maloney's affidavit said Mansir, 72, submitted Independence Party nominating petitions that included forged signatures — including one from a person who died in 2016.

The three defendants pleaded not guilty in First District Court in Central Islip and were released.

Amos Goodman, 35, of East Hampton, who resigned last week as the chairman of the East Hampton Republican Party and is expected to appear in court Wednesday, submitted nominating petitions for three races that contained at least 43 forgeries, Sini said, including the signature of a person who died in 2017.

"What makes this case particularly troubling is that two individuals are employed by the very agency that is charged with ensuring the integrity of our elections," Sini said.

He said the candidates whose

nominating petitions were allegedly tainted by forged signatures were not aware of the scheme and none won their general election races. One candidate withdrew his nomination after the East Hampton Town Republican Party filed a lawsuit earlier this year that accused leaders of the Independence Party of forging petition signatures.

Mann and Dickerson did not return calls seeking comment. Goodman could not be reached.

Mansir's attorney, Carl Irace, of East Hampton, said: "My client denies the allegations and looks forward to be proven innocent, though she should have never should have been put in a position to have to defend her good name."

## \$2.6M in grants for Sound projects

BY DAVID M. SCHWARTZ  
david.schwartz@newsday.com

Federal officials on Tuesday announced almost \$2.6 million in grants for Long Island Sound environmental projects, including \$500,000 for New York projects.

Projects on Long Island include a plan for a mesh sea turtle statue to be stuffed with cleaned-up plastic, water quality testing in Hempstead Harbor, and rain gardens in Port Jefferson.

"The funding is seed money, the funding is investments," Environmental Protection Agency Regional Director Pete Lopez said during the presentation at Port Jefferson Village Center. "The funding is leading to improvements in the Long Island Sound."

The 36 grants funded through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund combines money from the EPA and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a congressionally mandated organization that administers the grant.

Long Island projects include:

- \$67,500 for Group for the East End to remove invasive species, restore habitat and conduct outreach at Hallock State Park Preserve in Jamesport.
- \$75,000 for water quality monitoring at Hempstead Harbor. Funding will go through



Boaters clam near Lloyd Harbor last spring. The grants include \$500,000 for New York projects.

the village of Sea Cliff and Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor.

- \$41,000 for Audubon New York to hold a program to encourage people to "share the shore" with birds, including the piping plover and terns.
- \$45,000 for Citizens Campaign for the Environment to conduct an anti-plastic pollution campaign, including

against plastic straws. Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the group, said a mesh statue of a sea turtle planned for Sunken Meadow State Park will be filled with plastic collected in beach cleanups.

- \$43,000 to the Maritime Explorium in Port Jefferson to build a series of rain gardens, which help clean storm runoff and educate the public.

Grants also went to projects

in New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont, which are in the Long Island Sound watershed. The money will be matched with \$3.1 million in grants from local governments and community groups.

Asked about the disparity in funding between Long Island and other locations, Mark Tedesco, director of the Long Island Sound Office of the EPA,

said grant awards depend on projects that applied and each project ultimately benefits the region. In other years, New York had done better, he said.

Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley) said federal funding for Long Island environmental programs has increased overall, thanks to advocates in the region.

"It's important to look at all EPA spending," he said. He called the grants and environmental work "an opportunity to leave the world a better place."

Carol DiPaolo, programs director for the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, said the money will allow the nonprofit to continue testing waters as it monitors nitrogen and bacteria levels, and to pay for private laboratory fees. She called Hempstead Harbor a "tremendous success story" where shellfishing has been reopened.

Jackie Brennon Brooks, president of the Long Island Explorium, a nautical-themed museum in Port Jefferson, said it plans to build four rain gardens on Route 25A in Port Jefferson Village with its consultant, Nelson, Pope & Voorhis. She said the rain gardens, which filter stormwater runoff through plant roots and soil, would be an example for those passing through the village. "It's environmentally friendly and a teaching opportunity," she said.

NEWSDAY / J. CONRAD WILLIAMS JR.