

Around LI

N. HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Hearing Tuesday on districts' projects

The Town of North Hempstead will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall to discuss making improvements in the Harbor Hills Park District, the North Hempstead Lighting District, and the North Hempstead Sidewalk District.

For the sidewalk district, the town wants to pass a bond that would generate \$5.6 million. The extra money would go toward sidewalk improvements, buying new equipment and the design plans for future projects. The money would be used through 2022. For the lighting district, the town wants to pass a bond that would generate \$500,000. That money would go toward replacing streetlights throughout the town with LED lights. The town would use \$100,000 each year, starting this year, to complete the project.

For the park district, town officials want to approve a bond that would generate \$1.2 million. The money would go toward replacing the mechanical system of the outdoor pool at Harbor Hills Park in Great Neck. The town would spend the funds this year and next year to complete the project.

— KHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

W. HEMPSTEAD

Pool reopens after \$208G upgrade

The Echo Park Pool Complex in West Hempstead recently reopened after a \$208,000 refurbishment, town officials said.

The indoor pool complex was closed Jan. 1 to last Monday as crews made improvements to the men's and women's locker rooms, weight rooms, steam rooms, shower areas, diving boards and LED overhead pool lights.

General maintenance takes place each winter, but the complex is open year-round. The complex at 399 Nassau Blvd. is open to town residents every day for a fee.

For more information, call the Echo Park Pool Complex at 516-483-7400 or visit the town's

Rocking for a cause



PATCHOGUE. Michael Graziano performs with his bandmates in the Michael Jordan Band on North Avenue in Patchogue on Sunday. Rock and roll bands competed to be featured in the Battle of the Bands fundraiser for the American Heart Association.

website at toh.li. — STEFANIE DAZIO

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

\$750G fix-up starts at Center Moriches site

Brookhaven Town officials have begun a \$750,000 project to renovate the former Knights of Columbus property in Center Moriches.

The town purchased the building, to be named Moriches Bay Recreation Center, last year. It represents the last of a multi-phase project to create the hamlet's first multipurpose athletic field, which opened in September. That project cost \$1 million. The athletic field is on Frowein Road, next to Center Moriches High School. It was constructed using energy-efficient lights to help reduce light pollution, town officials said.

In 2016, Brookhaven opened the \$1.5 million Veterans Park, in Selden. The park is the first of three phases totaling about \$8 million for more ballfields in the area, town officials say. That park is at Boyle Road at Hemlock Street. — DEON J. HAMPTON

GREAT NECK PLAZA

Trustees approve \$7.14M spending plan

Trustees in Great Neck Plaza have approved the village's 2018-19 budget, which stays below the state-mandated tax cap of 1.9 percent for local governments.

The \$7.14 million spending plan gives village employees about a 2 percent salary increase and raises taxes by 1.6 percent, village officials said. Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen read aloud a statement from Mayor Jean Celender, who was absent for the vote, that said the village has passed slight tax increases each year that remained below the tax cap for four consecutive years.

"We only pierced the tax cap last year — approximately an 8 percent increase — to get started on our multiyear roadway repairs project," Celender said. "In the fall, we rehabilitated 11 roadways."

One of the village's largest anticipated spending increases is in employee benefits, a

\$100,795 hike when compared with 2017-18. Village officials anticipate earning an extra \$150,000 in safety inspection fees from the building department and \$150,000 from a Community Development Block Grant. — KHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Board OKs two more nighttime meetings

The Hempstead Town Board recently voted to hold two additional night meetings this year.

Supervisor Laura Gillen had pledged during her campaign to increase the number of town board meetings held at night — most begin at 10:30 a.m. — following residents' complaints that they couldn't attend morning meetings because they have to be at work.

Gillen had proposed four additional night meetings — three already were scheduled for the rest of the year — but Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney, the board's majority leader, recommended that

just two more be phased in this year with the option to increase next year.

The 7 p.m. town board meetings are now Feb. 20, April 10, June 19, Oct. 16 and Nov. 27. The Oct. 16 meeting is a budget hearing following a 2:30 p.m. meeting the same day.

Gillen said she would continue talking to the town board to try and get additional night meetings.

— STEFANIE DAZIO

BABYLON

S&P gives village AA credit rating

Standard & Poor's has given Babylon Village a credit rating of AA, the village announced earlier this month.

The agency gave the rating, its second highest, because of the village's "broad and diverse economy" and "very strong" budget flexibility, according to a news release from the village.

"This designation reflects Babylon's commitment to conservative fiscal planning and the continued development of its vibrant downtown center," the statement said.

Babylon Village residents praised the village's new credit rating at Tuesday's board of trustees meeting. "That's quite an achievement," resident Frank Curtin said.

Village Attorney Joel Sikowitz said at the meeting that the rating will help the village save money on future borrowing. — JESSE COBURN

DIX HILLS

'No parking' signs for two residential roads

The Huntington Town Board approved amending traffic code for two residential roadways in Dix Hills to avoid "potential obstruction."

The board approved placing "No Parking" signs in both directions on Arbor Lane between Caledonia Road and Lisa Drive, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on school days. In a separate vote, the board also approved placing "No Parking" signs in both directions on Norman Court between Wedgewood Drive and Vanderbilt Parkway, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on school days.

The board voted 5-0 on both measures at the December town board meeting. — DEBORAH S. MORRIS