

Around LI

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

\$900G grant redirect eyed for streetlights

Brookhaven Town officials have adopted a resolution to ask the U.S. Department of Energy to repurpose \$900,000 in grant funds to replace street lighting fixtures.

"It's a step in the right direction that we think is necessary," Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine said after the town board approved the request last week.

The \$900,000 is what remains from a \$4 million grant the department awarded in 2009 in part for energy improvements to homes and town buildings, as well as solar programs.

Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Valerie Cartright said she was initially apprehensive about the request for fear the town-sponsored Green Home Go Solar program would be eliminated. But she learned it won't be, she said.

Brookhaven has 45,000 light fixtures and in recent years has replaced 5,000 of them, highway department officials have said.

Stony Brook resident Lee Krauser said at the board meeting replacing the lights in her neighborhood have made roads safer because of "how they shine."

"Anyone who has turned down Stony Brook Road can see what a difference the beautiful lights have made," Krauser said. "It looks like the beautiful road it was supposed to be."

The resolution is part of a larger project Brookhaven Town Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro proposed to replace nearly half the town's light fixtures. He also wants the town board to consider a \$4 million capital improvement project that would replace 20,000 old street lighting fixtures with energy-efficient lights over a 2-year period.

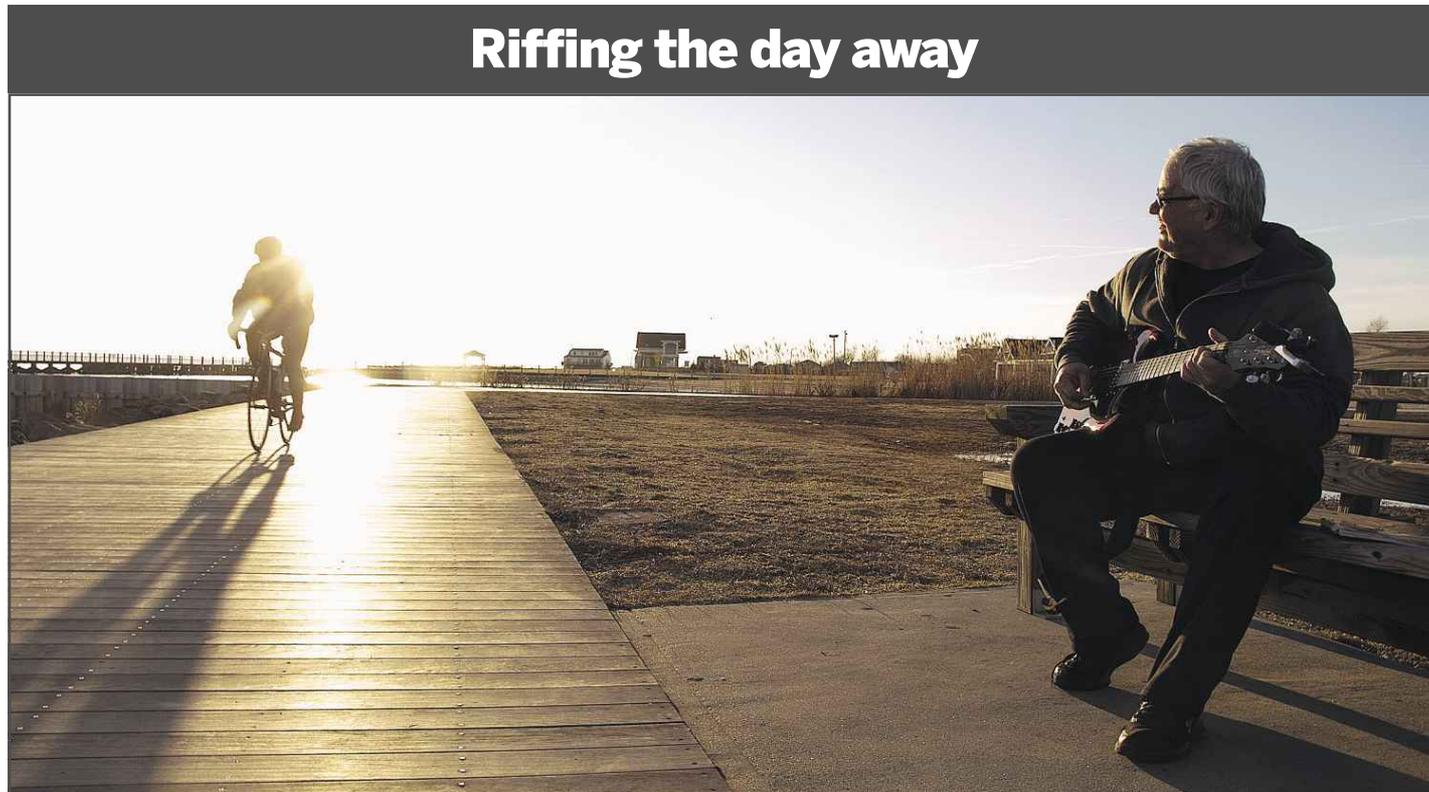
Losquadro said replacing the old lights would save the town \$1 million in electricity costs during the two years.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

MUNSEY PARK

Trustee appointment set for Wednesday

Munsey Park officials are to



COPIAGUE. With the weekend rain gone, Rene Valdivia of Copiague practices his guitar Monday at Tanner Park.

JESSICA ROTKIEWICZ

appoint a new trustee at Wednesday's village board meeting, according to an agenda posted on the village website.

Village officials could not be reached for more information. The meeting is to be held at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 1777 Northern Blvd., in Manhasset.

The village board is composed of four trustees and the mayor. The last election took place in March 2017, when Mayor Frank DeMento was elected to a two-year term. Last year, incumbent trustee Patrick Hance defended his seat and a new trustee, Lawrence Ceriello, joined the board.

The board votes on appointing inspectors for the March election at the Feb. 14 meeting.

— CHRISTINE CHUNG

HEMPSTEAD

Village hires law firm for election matters

The Hempstead Village board of trustees unanimously voted last Tuesday to hire Mineola law firm Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter & Donovan LLP to represent the village in election law matters.

The firm will be paid \$300 per hour as outside counsel,

according to a copy of the village resolution. The legal contract was not put out to bid. Some contracts, such as those for professional or personal services, can be exempt from competitive bidding if the services require specialized expertise or skills.

The attorneys would represent the village for election-based work related to the March 20 election. Trustee Gladys Rodriguez's seat is up for election. She was appointed to the position last year to fill Don Ryan's trustee seat when he won his mayoral election.

The firm was retained by the village in April for a separate contract, which also was made by appointment and not a bidding process, for election and general municipal law matters, as well as the North Main Street Project. The village pays \$275 of the firm's \$450-per-hour cost for its involvement in the project because the master developer picks up the rest.

Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter & Donovan has also represented Nassau County in labor and employment issues under former County Executive Edward Mangano, and contributed to his campaigns and the county GOP committee.

— STEFANIE DAZIO

SOUTHOLD TOWN

Infrastructure plans get underway in town

Several Southold Town projects are underway or on track, town government liaison Denis Noncarrow and other officials said.

The Southold Town Board voted 6-0 at its meeting last Tuesday to authorize the town to go to bid on a \$76,180 project to add 14 new spaces to the Pike Street municipal parking lot.

The project, which will be funded by a \$60,180 downtown revitalization grant awarded by Suffolk County in November and \$16,000 in matched town funds, is waiting for county officials to sign the contract for the grant. Noncarrow said officials hope to start the parking lot improvements in the spring.

The board also approved signing a contract and going to bid for contractors on a \$550,000 project to install solar panels at the town's animal shelter in Peconic. The shelter is one of the highest electricity-consuming town-owned facilities in Southold, and the solar panel installations are expected to drastically cut down on its energy consump-

tion, officials said.

The town has also approved an authorization to go to bid on \$50,000 in repairs to the Peconic Lane Community Center, including abatement and removal of lead paint, and repairs to rotted trim. The repairs could be completed by spring, Noncarrow said.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

ISLIP TOWN

Tax-grieve hearing location is moving

Residents of Islip Town will need to take their tax grievances to a new location this year, with the hearings now being held at a site other than Town Hall.

Hearings will be held in the Economic Development Conference Room of the tax receiver's office at 40 Nassau Ave. in Islip hamlet this year. In years past they were held in the town board room at Town Hall.

Grievances will be heard on May 15, from 9 to 11 a.m.; 2 to 4 p.m.; and 7 to 9 p.m. Town officials said in a statement that the hearings could go past 9 p.m. to serve all residents who arrived before that time 9 p.m.

— VALERIE BAUMAN