

CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY UPDATE...

The membership and Board of Directors of the Coram Civic Association wish everyone everywhere a healthy and Happy New Year!



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. . .YA REALLY GOTTA WANNA!

The only things that are broken more often than a politician's Election Day promises are our own New Year's resolutions. Looking for some guidance on how you can make this year a success? Have at it!

[New Year's Resolutions](#) Kids.gov

[Making New Year's Resolutions with Your Child](#) PBS Parents

[New Year's Resolutions for Kids of All Ages!](#) radioMD.com (Audio File)

[New Year's Family Resolutions](#) Penn State

[How to make New Year's resolutions fun for the family](#) Michigan State University



In the news for...

New York State

"Building on Success – 2014 End of Year Report" Office of the Governor of NYS

"The Governor, working with the Legislature, put the State on a course of fiscal stability with the passage of four, on-time, honestly balanced budgets. State spending growth has been held to below two percent—the lowest rate of spending growth over a four-year period in more than 50 years. In fact, the State ended the 2013-14 fiscal year with a net operating surplus of \$625 million" ...[read "Building on Success"](#)

School Tax-freeze checks are in the mail NEWSDAY; December 30, 2014

Attention taxpayers: The property-tax-freeze checks from New York State are coming. To be eligible, taxpayers must qualify for a separate program--the STAR property tax exemption, live outside New York City and their school district must have stayed within the NYS tax levy cap (which Longwood did!). Their household income must have been \$500,000 or less last year...full details; [read article](#)

NY minimum wage rises to \$8.75 NEWSDAY; December 31, 2014

On Dec. 31 of last year, the minimum rose to \$8 an hour, from \$7.25. At the end of 2015, the final increase will lift New York's minimum wage to \$9 an hour. Some say that small businesses are being hurt "...because they are going to have to raise prices and fees to compensate for them."...which just may cause the cycle of inflation to continue and therefore have no lasting benefit...[read article](#)

Everything We Don't Know About Minimum-Wage Hikes Bloomberg News OpEd Dec 29, 2014

Alas, if only economic analysis were so easy. In fact, it's very hard to study what happens when we raise the minimum wage. The people confidently proclaiming their ability to see the future are often what I like to call "one-study wonders": people who have gotten their hands on a single study that confirms what they already believe (or would very much like to) and then proceed to wave it around while ignoring the rest of the vast, conflicting, suggestive but hardly definitive economic literature on the subject...[read article](#)

Long Island

Editorial: LI needs state seed money to take root NEWSDAY Editorial Board

"How can Long Island revitalize its ailing economy? The projects funded were among dozens of Long Island proposals given \$82 million overall in what's become an annual competition among regions around the state."...with reader's commentary...[read article](#)

New light on power charge NEWSDAY; December 29, 2014

"LIPA power supply charges, which spiked 81 percent between September and December as natural gas prices increased far more modestly, are drawing new regulatory scrutiny of the authority and a promise from PSEG Long Island to address the problem starting in January."...well, as long as PSEG 'promises', surely we all feel much better!...[read article](#)

PSEG LI to announce January bill reduction NEWS12; December 31, 2014 7:57 AM

WOODBURY - PSEG Long Island is announcing a reduction on electric bills in January. The power supply charge is expected to drop about 2 percent from December's rate. The move comes after power supply increases over the past three months [of 81%]. The power supply charge pays for the fuel that PSEG buys in order to produce electricity....well, they did promise "to address the problem starting in January."!

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

Two MRSA cases reported at Rocky Point High School, officials say NEWSDAY; Dec 29, 2014

MRSA, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is a staph infection that is resistant to some common antibiotics. It can be spread through direct skin-to-skin contact or through contact with wound drainage, but not by air...[read article](#)

LONGWOOD SCHOOLS

CEW Students Donate *Busy Bags* to Stony Brook Children's Hospital LCSD Press Release
Children who are staying at Stony Brook Children's Hospital during the holiday season will receive "busy bags" thanks to Heather Colucci's second grade class at Charles E. Walters Elementary School...[read press release](#)

EDUCATION

Schools Need to Prioritize Addressing Obesity in 2015 Huffington Post-Opinion "The Blog"
"During this time of year, many adults are making New Year's Resolutions to exercise more and eat a healthier diet. We also need to make a national resolution to address America's childhood obesity problem"...[read article](#)

RANDOM STUFF

STAR (School Tax Relief) Exemption Deadline is March 1st

If you are not on automatic renewal, you must re-apply for this exemption by March 1, 2015 or your application will be denied. You can do this via mail or in person at the Town Hall offices. Forms were recently mailed out by the Town to all current STAR exemption holders. If you haven't received yours or are applying for the first time, you can call the Town at 451-TOWN or click on the appropriate form below:

STAR BASIC EXEMPTION FORM & INSTRUCTION SHEET [RP-425](#)

STAR ENHANCED EXEMPTION FORM & INSTRUCTION SHEET [RP-425E](#)

STAR ENHANCED RENEWAL EXEMPTION FORM & INSTRUCTION SHEET [RP-425E-RNW](#)

Longwood Public Library – Update! Longwood Public Library Newsletter

The Longwood Public Library expansion project is "on time" and "on budget"! Grand re-opening is currently forecasted for the summer of 2015! Read all about it as well as the numerous programs that are available right now for kids and adults at the temporary quarters in the King Kullen Shopping Center in Middle Island by clicking on [Newsletter](#).

Uninsured face hike in penalty NEWSDAY; December 30, 2014

All taxpayers must report their health insurance status on their 2014 tax returns, and the IRS will begin fining some uninsured people and deciding whether others qualify for exemptions. The penalties go up significantly for remaining uninsured in 2015...[read article](#)

Managing wealth and taxes for retirement NEWSDAY; December 29, 2014

"If you have a New Year's resolution to save more for retirement, make sure you do it wisely so that some of it will be tax-free when you need it most"...[read article](#)

Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter Center for Disease Control

Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall...[read article](#)



Upcoming Events!!

Monday, January 5th



The Davis Town Meeting House Society General Meeting

The [Davis Town Meeting House Society, Inc.](#)—stewards of the **Lester H. Davis House** in Coram, a Brookhaven Town Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—is having their monthly general meeting at 7:00 pm at the Swezey-Avey House in Yaphank located at the corner of Middle Island-Yaphank Rd. & Main St...(by the Upper Lake). Come to visit and find out what we are all about as we work toward the restoration and conservancy of this historic treasure! All are welcome to attend!

Starts January 5th



SUPPORT AMERICA'S HEROES BOWLING CLUB

Join us Mondays at 7:00 pm starting Jan 5th

3 games per week • Free shoe rental • 90% handicap • \$20 per bowler per week • 17 week session • End of session party
Prize fund • Includes donation to Bowler's to Veteran's Link

For more info including contact numbers, click on Heroes Bowling Club

The [Bowlers to Veterans Link](#) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity which supports America's veteran and active duty service men and women.

[Coram Country Lanes](#), 615 Middle Country Road, Coram • 631-732-2022

Please visit the [Coram Civic Association](#) online for more information on your community!

"Single Stream Recycling" is now in effect! Click on Curby for details!



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[Kelly Brothers Landscaping](#), [Frances Montera – Coldwell Banker Real Estate](#),
[Michael J. Grant Funeral Homes](#), [Modern Comfort Pools](#), and [People’s United Bank](#).

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