

Around

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Ethics code hearing on proposed updates

The Town of Huntington is holding a public hearing on proposed updates to its ethics code.

Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci proposed a resolution to update the town's ethics code, including clarifying the definition of "relative" by adding "grandparent" and "grandchild" as types of relatives.

The clarification also adds any "dependent" to the list of people prevented from benefiting from anyone in town positions or with town powers and duties for material benefit.

The proposed changes also would require that town political party chairman or chairwoman file annual financial disclosure statements.

The update also says that all town officers and employees shall receive ethics training no less than every four years, with some management and elected positions having training more frequently.

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday's board meeting at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 Main Street, Huntington. The town board voted unanimously, 5-0, at the Dec. 4 board meeting to hold the hearing. — SOPHIA CHANG

HAMPTON BAYS

Water district forum planned for Tuesday

Hampton Bays residents are invited to a second and final forum on a plan for the Suffolk County Water Authority to take over operations of the Hampton Bays Water District in a proposal town and water authority officials say would upgrade infrastructure with little financial impact on residents.

SCWA officials have said the plan includes \$14.6 million for district capital improvements, with \$6.1 million spent in the first three years including \$2.5 million for an iron- and manganese-removal system.

The Southampton Town Board would continue to set customer rates, and the water authority's 13 employees would be offered a job with SCWA under the agreement, town



DANIEL GOODRICH

In the mortal twilight of WWII

OLD BETHPAGE. The more than 19,000 Americans who died in the six-week Battle of the Bulge, which began on Dec. 16, 1944, were honored at the Museum of American Armor on Sunday evening with a candlelight vigil and a 21-gun salute by midshipmen from the Merchant Marine Academy.

officials have said.

Water district officials have spoken against the plan, claiming rates may rise.

No date has been set for the vote. The forum will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Hampton Bays High School, 88 Argonne Rd. East, Hampton Bays. — VERA CHINESE

ALBERTSON

Clark Botanic Garden celebrates its 50th

The Town of North Hempstead is planning a series of events next year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Clark Botanic Garden.

The town plans to host a "Sundays in the Garden" lecture series featuring experts in horticulture or garden design. Newsday garden columnist Jessica Damiano will deliver one of the lectures. On Sept. 21, the Fanny Dwight Clark Memorial Garden will host a garden gala, and the town will reveal a new moonlight garden.

North Hempstead Television staffers are working on a documentary about the botanic garden scheduled to

screen in the spring.

Clark Botanic is a 12-acre garden in Albertson founded in 1969. North Hempstead acquired the property in 1989.

— KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

SMITHTOWN TOWN

Marina and mooring fees are increased

The Smithtown Town Council has increased fees boaters will pay at the town marina and mooring fields.

Mooring fees increased from \$105 to \$180 and the boat slip rate increased from \$55 a foot (with a \$1,100 minimum), to \$60 a foot (with a \$1,200 minimum). Winter wet storage increased from \$12 to \$15 per foot. The town is also introducing a charge for optional electrical service: \$200 for 20 amps, \$300 for 30 amps and \$500 for 50 amps.

The increases were the first since 2008, town officials said in interviews after the Dec. 11 council vote. Councilman Tom McCarthy, who keeps a boat at the marina, said that the increases were needed to keep

boating facilities economically self-sufficient. "It's no different than the golf course — it covers its bills," he said. "We can't ask a resident who doesn't boat to pay for marinas or mooring fields or boat ramps."

Officials expect to spend \$3 million in coming years to rebuild and improve boating facilities, which received their last major renovation in the early 1980s, McCarthy said.

Town Clerk Vincent Puleo said the town takes in about \$325,000 per year from boating fees. The fee increases are expected to generate an additional \$32,400.

The town keeps a waiting list of 2,400 names for boat slips, he said. "People wait 25 years for a boat slip."

— NICHOLAS SPANGLER

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

AAA bond rating reaffirmed by S&P

A Manhattan credit rating agency has reaffirmed Brookhaven Town's AAA bond rating as the town prepares to raise almost \$60 million for

park and infrastructure improvements.

Standard & Poor's, in a report released Dec. 5, gave high marks to the town's economy and budgeting practices, adding that Brookhaven "has made changes to its revenue and expenditure makeup, and identified significant opportunities for cost-saving measures in an effort to maintain balanced operations and provide necessary services to residents."

"It indicates the very high confidence that Wall Street and the bond agencies place in Brookhaven and its management," Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine said in an interview Tuesday. "Lower rates means a huge benefit to the taxpayer because it costs us less to borrow money."

Brookhaven next week plans to sell a pair of bonds totaling \$59.2 million to pay for a variety of capital projects, Romaine said. The projects include open space acquisition, road and park improvements, rebuilding the Cherry Grove dock and constructing new headquarters buildings for the Mastic Beach and South Country ambulance districts.

— CARL MACGOWAN