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OYSTER BAY TOWN Candidates sought for inspector general

The Town of Oyster Bay government has advertised the job of inspector general following the town board vote Jan. 9 to create the position.

The position and department is charged with overseeing and standardizing the town's contracting processes. The 2018 budget includes \$172,000 for the department, including salaries. The job has a three-year term.

Candidates must have a graduate degree, finance degree, law degree or comparable degree as well as a minimum of three years experience as a supervisor of public or quasi-public sector staff, according to the town's website.

Revisions to the law eliminated subpoena power from the position that had been in the original proposal and added an exemption for documents the inspector general could review based on whether they were "privileged." At the town board's Dec. 12 meeting, town attorney Joseph Nocella told the board privilege referred to attorney-client privilege. — **TED PHILLIPS**

BROOKHAVEN TOWN Board OKs change to some meeting times

The Brookhaven Town Board has approved a scheduling change that will cause some public hearings to start a half-hour earlier.

Hearings may start as early as 5:30 p.m., beginning with the board's next meeting on Jan. 25. Hearings had been held no earlier than 6 p.m. last year.

The town board voted 6-1 on Jan. 9 to approve the change. Councilwoman Valerie Cartwright cast the dissenting vote.

Brookhaven's town board meetings are held at 5 p.m., and public hearings — held to provide public discussion of specific issues, such as zoning changes — begin after the board conducts other business. Legal notices specify the time at which public hearings are held, and hearings may not start before that time.

Town officials said the public hearing time was moved up because board meetings sometimes are delayed when the board completes its other busi-



JAMES CARBONE

LAKE RONKONKOMA. Bill Pfeiffer, far right, teaches a recreational ice diving course on frozen Lake Ronkonkoma on Sunday. Pfeiffer, a Nesconset firefighter, also teaches water rescue training in the fire department.

ness before hearings are allowed to begin. — **CARL MACGOWAN**

Toy, food drives help over 14,000 people

Toy and food collections in Brookhaven helped more than 14,000 people during the holiday season, town officials said.

Its annual toy drive donated gifts to 7,186 children, while the food drive prepared meals for 6,932 needy people, town officials said Friday.

The Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau INTERFACE Program sponsored the drives. — **DEON J. HAMPTON**

HEAD OF THE HARBOR

Fifty Acre Road swale grant being sought

Head of the Harbor officials hope to build a swale this year to improve drainage along Fifty Acre Road, said trustee Judy Ogden, the village's volunteer highway commissioner. The project — sometimes known as a bioswale — would filter and funnel runoff from the flat land along the road to a recharge basin at the south end of the thoroughfare, Ogden said.

Ogden said the village will apply for a water-quality protection grant from Suffolk County next month. That grant funds

up to \$200,000 for water-quality improvement projects, she said. A cost estimate for the project will be available next month, Ogden said, adding that the bioswale could provide a new model for village infrastructure. — **NICHOLAS SPANGLER**

PORT WASHINGTON N. B&B regulations are OK'd by town board

The Port Washington North Village Board of Trustees voted Jan. 3 to regulate bed-and-breakfast establishments to ensure "preservation of the character of the surrounding areas."

The regulations establish special-use permit requirements for B&Bs. All applicants are subject to a site inspection. The permit's annual fee is \$250 and must be renewed every year.

B&Bs are restricted in residential districts within the village, according to the law. A permit can be revoked if there are violations, and each violation is punishable with a fine up to \$500. — **CHRISTINE CHUNG**

E. HAMPTON TOWN Pre-application open for housing vouchers

Pre-applications are now being accepted for federal

housing vouchers in East Hampton Town.

They can be submitted through Jan. 31 for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, which is administered by the town. Pre-applications must be submitted online, and only one submission will be accepted per family.

The program's goal is for renters to pay no more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs, with the town paying the rest, according to the town's website.

Once the enrollment period ends, a lottery will be held to select those placed on a waiting list.

Preference will be given to those who live and work in East Hampton Town. All nonresidents must move to the town for one year if selected.

Income limits range from \$38,800 for one person to \$73,150 for a family of eight.

Visit eamptonny.gov for details. — **VERA CHINESE**

OLD WESTBURY Proposals sought for smart water meters

The Old Westbury board of trustees voted to issue a request for proposals for a project that would install smart water meters on homes in the village.

The Jan. 8 decision follows an August pilot program in which

meters were installed in 25 residential properties. The program now is to expand throughout the village's 1,300 water connections.

Village officials have said smart water meters would measure household water usage, help identify any possible leaks, and ultimately help homeowners conserve water. With the meters, hourly water usage can be tracked on a mobile app or website. — **CHRISTINE CHUNG**

Tree planting plans for Wheatley Road

Wheatley Road will be getting a new look with plans to plant dozens of trees in the spring.

The village board of trustees voted Jan. 8 to award a tree planting project to East Moriches-based Scenic Designs, which had a low bid of \$93,975.

Village officials said the project will replant many trees that were lost during superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Trustee Marina Chimerine said, "Part of the allure of our village has always been our beautiful tree-lined streets."

The village board hopes to make the planting an annual project, Village Administrator Brian Ridgway said.

The list of trees to be planted includes varieties of maple, which generally reach a minimum branching height of 6 feet. — **CHRISTINE CHUNG**