

Around LI

HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Officials decry cut to aid in Cuomo budget

Hempstead Town and village officials on Tuesday decried the plan in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's proposed budget that would disqualify Long Island towns and villages from nearly \$19 million in state aid.

"This is a direct attack by Governor Cuomo on our way of life on Long Island," Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney said at a news conference, flanked by other town council members, town tax receiver Don Clavin and the mayors of Freeport and Hempstead villages.

The Town of Hempstead stands to lose \$3.8 million it was expecting from the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities program.

Freeport would lose more than \$900,000, and Hempstead Village would lose close to \$650,000, according to figures presented at the news conference.

The governor's office directed a request for comment to the state Division of the Budget. Morris Peters, a spokesman for the division, said the governor's proposal "impacts towns and villages for which AIM represents less than 2 percent of their budget. For the town and village of Hempstead, the impact is less than 1 percent, and it is offset by the \$225 million in the budget to match local government savings through the shared services program and \$390 million in new local sales tax revenues by eliminating the internet tax advantage."

Cuomo's administration has said previously that it no longer wants to provide the aid to communities where it covered less than 2 percent of expenditures in 2017. Such communities do not need the aid, it said.

The town and village leaders said the funding cuts may require tax increases or a reduction in services.

"AIM is something we expected," said Hempstead Village Mayor Don Ryan. "To lose it is extremely painful."

The officials called on Cuomo to reverse the plan and restore the funding.

— JESSE COBURN



A coach's biggest fan

HUNTINGTON. Teddy Savalas inspects the 1860s Clark Carriage he calls "The Lincoln Carriage," displayed on the front lawn of his home Tuesday. He said he purchased the Civil War-era carriage from a Centerport man in 1961.

WAINSCOTT

Building moratorium extension considered

East Hampton Town officials are once again considering extending a moratorium on business development in Wainscott.

The town enacted the moratorium in November 2016 to prevent new development from being built out of conformance with a long-range planning vision known as the town's hamlet studies, which have not yet been completed.

Officials are proposing extending the moratorium — which prohibits the town planning board from granting new site plan or subdivision approvals in the Wainscott commercial corridor — until July 1. The town board voted in favor of six-month moratorium extensions in December 2017 and in June 2018.

Among the recommendations in the Wainscott hamlet study are creating a walkable hamlet center and a zoning district for home improvement businesses. The hamlet studies are expected to soon be finalized and adopted into the town's master plan.

Residents can weigh in on the moratorium extension

during a Feb. 7 public hearing at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton Town Hall, 159 Pantigo Rd. in East Hampton. — VERA CHINESE

BRENTWOOD

Input sought on community center

Officials are seeking public input on a planned \$15 million community center in Brentwood.

Residents can share their thoughts on what kinds of programming and services they want to see at the community center during a public meeting Saturday.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the funding for the new center in October as part of a \$45 million effort to combat MS-13 gang violence on Long Island.

The center is expected to provide social services and recreational and educational opportunities for area youth, including more than 19,000 students in the Brentwood School District, officials said.

A committee, co-chaired by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter, was also formed to plan the recreation center.

The meeting will be at the

Brentwood Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to noon. A meeting was held Tuesday. For more information on the center, email brentwoodrecenter@dos.ny.gov. — RACHELLE BLIDNER

GREAT NECK

Meetings on how to add life to downtown

Trustees in Great Neck will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 to allow officials from Hauppauge-based consulting firm VHB to recommend ways to revitalize the village's business district.

The village hired VHB in 2017 to identify potential amendments to existing zoning code that would result in more development and more affordable housing for residents. Great Neck trustees released VHB's final report on Jan. 15.

Mayor Pedram Bral said he hopes VHB's recommendations will create more "diverse housing," including adding assisted-living facilities, town houses and condos. Adopting the recommendations will also help the village attract more companies to Middle Neck and East Shore roads, Bral said.

"Since I became the mayor, and even before I was the mayor, there's always been

complaints about empty stores in the business district and it not being kept up properly," Bral said Tuesday.

After hearing the Feb. 5 recommendations, Great Neck trustees plan to consider adopting them during another public meeting on Feb. 19.

Both meetings will be at Village Hall on Baker Hill Road. — CHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

BROOKHAVEN

Free safety check of child car seats

Brookhaven parents will have the opportunity next month to get free inspections of their child car seats.

The Brookhaven Highway Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office are offering the safety checks on Feb. 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Blue Point Fire Department, 205 Blue Point Ave.

Certified technicians will be on hand to conduct the inspections, highway officials said. Inspections are by appointment only; call 631-363-3770.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is funding the program with a grant from the New York State Governors Traffic Safety Committee. — DEON J. HAMPTON