

Around LI

N. HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Pollution control district hearing set

The Town of North Hempstead will hold a public hearing April 17 about a bond for the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District.

If approved, the town would issue a \$10.41 million bond on behalf of the pollution control district. The district is not considered a local government entity and therefore by law cannot issue its own bonds. The town issued \$16.6 million worth of bonds for the district in 2015.

According to town documents released March 20, the bond would help pay for upgrades to the Shelter Rock and Manhasset Valley Pump Stations, an expansion of the district's microturbine co-generation facility and improvements at the sewage treatment plant.

The hearing will be at 7 p.m. at Town Hall in Manhasset.

— KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

Hamlets could get zone program awards

As many as seven communities in Brookhaven Town could be eligible for the federal economic opportunity zone program aimed at spurring development in financially stressed neighborhoods, town officials said.

The town board voted 6-0 on Thursday to submit the seven hamlets — North Bellport, Mastic Beach, Center Moriches, Mastic-Shirley, Moriches, Brookhaven and Middle Island — for consideration by state officials, who are expected to make recommendations to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. Cuomo must submit finalists to federal officials by April 20.

The federal tax overhaul signed into law last year included provisions for creating economic opportunity zones, in which communities would benefit from private investors, who would receive tax credits.

Former Mastic Beach Mayor Maura Sperry told board mem-

bers Thursday that the former village is "ripe for redevelopment" and could reap substantial benefits if it is chosen for the opportunity zone program. She said the hamlet could be an "incubator" for technology aimed at reducing climate change.

— CARL MACGOWAN

HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Town facilities to add credit card machines

Hempstead Town Board members approved a contract March 20 to add 63 credit card machines at town facilities.

The town hired Texas-based Forte Payment Systems, selected from five bids for credit card payment services, with a 2.5 percent fee and a capital cost of \$27,027 absorbed by the town.

Hempstead previously only accepted credit cards at the Lido Golf Course, the Merrick sanitation scale station and the toll booth at the Lido Beach parking lot. Credit card services will now be expanded to other parks facilities and town offices, including the animal shelter, building department,

water department and the town clerk's office.

"America's largest Town should be able to accept common credit cards for everyday payments," Hempstead Supervisor Laura Gillen said in a statement. "Besides convenience, credit cards offer additional safety and security to both residents and the town."

The credit card fees were reduced from 25 percent to 12 percent charged by the town and are more widely available in town departments, town officials said.

Gillen said the move will make government services more accessible and save expenses for residents. The new credit card system will expedite depositing of receipts and reduce the cost of processing each transaction

— JOHN ASBURY

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Board drops limit on vets' tax breaks

The Huntington Town Board has voted to eliminate the 10-year limitation on eligibility for the Cold War-

era veterans' tax exemption.

Previously, every 10 years the town had to renew the provision that gives a tax break to veterans who served during the Cold War era, defined by state law as service after World War II until the end of 1991.

The board voted 5-0 at the March 20 board meeting to make the exemption permanent.

State legislation allows property tax breaks of up to 15 percent for such veterans. The law applies to those who served during periods that were not part of previously defined conflicts, starting from Sept. 2, 1945, the date Japan formally surrendered to the Allies, through Dec. 26, 1991, when the Soviet Union was dissolved.

Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, sponsor of the resolution with Town Board member Edmund Smyth, had



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

An eggs-cellent prize to hand off

FARMINGDALE. Molly Glueckert, 18 months, of Farmingdale, is on the receiving end of Easter eggs containing prizes, with an assist from her dad, Bill Glueckert, on Tuesday at the Stew Leonard's supermarket during the store's Egg Hunt Eggs-Travaganza children's event.

said it was important to honor all veterans at the local level to thank them for their service.

— DEBORAH S. MORRIS

OYSTER BAY TOWN

Town refinances \$86.4M of debt

The town of Oyster Bay is refinancing about \$86.4 million of debt in a transaction that began last week and is expected to close next month.

The transaction is a bond refunding and the town's first since Standard & Poor's upgraded Oyster Bay's credit rating from junk status to its lowest investment grade, BBB. Municipalities refinance older bonds to save money. The savings generally come from paying off long-term debt that was issued with higher interest rates and reissuing the bonds as shorter-term debt with lower interest rates. The bonds that Oyster Bay is refunding were originally issued in 2008 and 2010, with maturities ranging from 10 to 19 years and will be replaced with bonds with maturities ranging from one to nine years.

— TED PHILLIPS

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