



Many of the holiday weekend arrests were made at DUI checkpoints such as this one off Sunrise Highway in Patchogue.

STRINGER NEWS SERVICE

Parking signs gone at pizzeria

BY DENISE M. BONILLA
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Lindenhurst Village officials have removed parking signs from in front of a pizzeria after residents raised safety concerns.

Workers began removing the two 15-minute parking signs from South Second Street at Spasso Pizzeria on Tuesday. The village had placed them there several months ago.

During a public hearing about the signs earlier this month, several residents living on South Second said the designated parking was too close to the end of the block where the street meets West Hoffman Avenue, limiting sight lines.

"It makes for a dangerous situation that's going to be a tragedy at that corner one day," said resident Julie Bartolomeo, who asked that a traffic study be performed.

Residents also questioned why the village would install the signs months before holding a public hearing.

"It just seems odd to me, as a simple taxpayer, that we have 15-minute signs up before they even get approved," Pete Tapinis said.

Village Administrator Doug Madlon said he authorized the signs. He said the pizzeria's owner, Joe Spasso, had told the village that people were parking in front of the shop for hours and that limited parking is "essential" to his takeout business. The store has a lot behind it with about a dozen spaces.

"We need businesses in the village," Madlon said. "To survive as a business he [Spasso] needed to have those spots open."

In response to the concerns, officials had PSC Engineering of Huntington Station conduct a study, completed last week, that recommended the village extend the "no parking" area before the stop sign by 5 feet. Madlon said the study did not indicate a problem with the 15-minute parking signs, so they will be reinstalled farther down the street, pending board approval.

Impaired driving arrests

BY ROBERT BRODSKY
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Long Island law enforcement agencies arrested 96 impaired motorists during the Memorial Day weekend, officials said Tuesday.

From Friday through Monday, Suffolk police arrested 37 drivers accused of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, many of whom were nabbed at sobriety checkpoints, according to a police spokeswoman.

Nassau police arrested 36 motorists in the four-day period,

36
Nassau

37
Suffolk

12
State
Police

11
DUI Task
Force

a department spokesman said.

State Police arrested 12 people this year, a spokesman said.

The Suffolk County district attorney's office's East End DUI Task Force, composed of law officers from 10 towns and

villages as well as members of county and State Police and the Suffolk sheriff's office, made an additional 11 DUI arrests this past weekend, according to Sheila Kelly, a spokeswoman for District Attorney Timothy Sini.

Those were five in Riverhead Town and six in Southampton Town, Kelly said.

During the 2017 Memorial Day weekend, Suffolk made 49 arrests of people accused of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. State Police arrested 14 people in 2017. Nassau did not respond to requests for details about its arrests last year.

Funding for Nassau's and Suffolk's increased patrols come from the state's Traffic Safety Committee Safe Driving Enforcement grant and Stop-DUI grant, officials said. *With Ellen Yan*

Jay Schneiderman: 'I'm in the race' for comptroller

BY RICK BRAND
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Southampton Supervisor Jay Schneiderman says he is seeking the Democratic nomination for Suffolk County comptroller this fall against Republican first-term incumbent John M. Kennedy.

"I'm in the race," said Schneiderman, saying he will also seek minor party support "to make my best case for their nomination."

Schneiderman, 56, cited his experience not only as Southampton supervisor, but also his for-

mer role as East Hampton's top official and his 12 years as a county lawmaker, when "I brought both towns to a Triple A bond rating and held the line on property taxes for 18 years in public office, and will be an independent watchdog for the county."

County Executive Steve Bellone immediately endorsed Schneiderman as one who has the "integrity, competence and independence to be an outstanding comptroller."

Richard Schaffer, Suffolk Democratic chairman, also supported Schneiderman, saying he

believes his experience makes him "uniquely qualified" and that he has a strong chance of winning. "The calculus has changed since the election of Donald Trump," he said. "No one can say who's safe or not safe."

Schneiderman said, if elected, he would "work with the legislature and executive in trying to get to a sustainable fiscal model, rather than the current borrowing from next year to pay this year."

Kennedy said he's run for office eight times and "welcomes the opportunity to put this

record before voters" against his former legislative colleague. In four years, he said, he's saved \$35 million in interest costs by refinancing debt, made \$8 million in audit recoveries and shut down two shelter operations he labeled "criminal enterprises." He said increased enforcement of the hotel-motel tax has raised revenue from \$8 million to \$12 million.

"Some people talk about great ideas, others deliver. We're just getting warmed up and we'll do a lot more in the next term," Kennedy said.