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MIDDLE ISLAND Land owner granted 60 days to mull offer

Garden City developer Wilbur Breslin has been granted a 60-day extension to decide whether to sell a Middle Island property he owns to Suffolk County.

The county has offered slightly more than \$1.8 million to buy the 21-acre Middle Country Road property that formerly included a Kmart department store. The vacant store was demolished in April 2016. County and Brookhaven Town officials have proposed developing a park with ball-fields and playgrounds at the site.

Breslin requested and was granted an extension of the Jan. 31 deadline to decide whether to accept the county's offer, said Jason Elan, a spokesman for County Executive Steve Bellone. The new deadline is March 31, Elan said.

Breslin did not return a phone call and email seeking comment. He had rejected a previous \$1.8 million offer from the county last year.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has offered to buy an adjacent 28-acre site from Breslin for open-space preservation. Breslin has not responded to that offer, a DEC spokeswoman said.

Legis. Sarah Anker (D-Mount Sinai) said the extension shows Breslin is willing to sell the property. "I just have a lot of hope that we will succeed, but it will be a lot of work," she said.

— CARL MACGOWAN

OYSTER BAY TOWN

Ethics body falls short of town code

The Oyster Bay Town Ethics Board met three times last year, one fewer meeting than required under the town ethics code. The board, which reviews employee and candidate financial disclosure forms, organizes ethics training and responds to ethics complaints from the public, is required to meet once every quarter. Last year the board



JESSICA ROTKIEWICZ

Brushing up on China for the new year

BOHEMIA. China enthusiast Janet Steiner of Oakdale helps Caitlin Miller, 10, of Ronkonkoma, paint a panda during a cultural learning lesson Monday at Edward J. Bosti Elementary School. The class was in honor of the Lunar New Year, which is next Tuesday and ushers in the Year of the Pig.

met in January, June and October. A scheduled meeting in September, the third quarter, was canceled.

The board's counsel, Steven Leventhal of Roslyn-based Leventhal, Cursio, Mullaney & Sliney LLP, said he did not know why the September meeting had been canceled.

The board has not yet created an annual report, as required under the ethics code. Leventhal said the report wasn't created because of the lack of a quorum at the beginning of 2018. In early 2018, the board was unable to meet because resignations had reduced the five-person panel to two members, too few for a quorum. A third member was appointed in May and meetings resumed. Leventhal said the annual report would be on the agenda for the board's next meeting, which is scheduled for Feb. 20.

The town board overhauled the town ethics code in 2016. An entirely new board was appointed in 2017, and it met

nine times, according to the town's website. The term of one member, Margaret Eaton, who was appointed to a two-year term in February 2017, is set to expire, which again would leave the board without a quorum. — TED PHILLIPS

SHELTER ISLAND Town plans to buy 6 acres for \$1.25M

Shelter Island Town officials are planning to purchase and preserve a 6-acre environmentally sensitive parcel.

The sellers of the Ned's Lane property are Edward L. Smyth and Rima Mardoyan Smyth, and the agreed-upon price is \$1.25 million. The funding source is the town's Community Preservation Fund, which is financed through a 2 percent tax on real estate transfers.

The town's community preservation fund advisory board recommended the land be purchased and preserved as the area is conducive to

groundwater recharge.

"It had a really great recharge value," said board chairman Gordon Gooding. "It will be six less homes, six less septic systems and six less people drawing from our groundwater."

A public hearing on the matter is set for 4:45 p.m. Feb. 8 at Town Hall.

— VERA CHINESE

BRIGHTWATERS 41-foot ramp to be built at Village Hall

Brightwaters' trustees have approved a contract to build a 41-foot-long ramp at Village Hall to accommodate the disabled.

Trustees voted 5-0 last Tuesday to award a \$16,275 contract to Great South Bay Home Improvements Inc., based in Brightwaters, Mayor John Valdin said.

The contract will largely be paid through a \$15,000 grant awarded to the village by the Islip Community Development

Agency, officials said.

The ramp, which will be at the front of Village Hall on Seneca Drive, is expected to be completed next month, Valdin said. — ANTONIO PLANAS

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE

Retired IT expert rehired as consultant

The Hempstead Village Board of Trustees voted 3-2 at its Jan. 15 meeting to hire recently retired IT director Justin Kum as a consultant through the end of this month.

Village Mayor Don Ryan said through a spokesman that the village will pay Kum \$150 per hour and expected him to work up to 20 hours a week.

Kum retired Jan. 11. Ryan said at the meeting that the village needed to rehire him as a consultant because the village is seeking to transition from its current computer system to a newer one, and requires Kum's expertise to do so.

Trustees LaMont Johnson and Jeffery Daniels voted against the hire. At a Jan. 2 meeting, the village board voted 3-2 against rehiring Kum as a consultant through May 31.

Trustee Perry Pettus voted against rehiring Kum at the Jan. 2 meeting but voted for it at the Jan. 15 meeting.

— JESSE COBURN

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Public hearings will be rescheduled

The Town of Huntington is rescheduling three public hearings that were originally scheduled for last Tuesday's town board meeting.

The hearings are to consider awarding a license agreement for use of private locker-room space to the Long Island Rebels at Dix Hills Park Ice Rink; to consider issuing a certificate of approval for a Goose Hill Road residence in the historic district of Cold Spring Harbor; and to consider installing a stop sign on west-bound Catalpa Drive at Crest Drive in East Northport.

Last Tuesday's board meeting was rescheduled for today, and the board expects to vote to reschedule these three public hearings to the 7 p.m. Feb. 13 board meeting.

— SOPHIA CHANG