

Around LI

FORT SALONGA Callahans Beach cell tower up for approval

Smithtown officials are likely to approve this fall installation of a 150-foot cell tower at Callahans Beach in Fort Salonga, according to a town release.

The plan from Site Tech is the subject of a Sept. 20 public hearing. Site Tech would contribute approximately \$250,000 to the town for improvements at the park, including a spray park, pavilion and playground.

Twelve spaces would be eliminated from beach parking to make way for the improvements.

Town officials said the tower would improve problematic cell service in the area, a coverage gap that sometimes results in emergency calls being routed to Connecticut instead of locally.

Councilman Tom McCarthy in a statement called the project a "collaborative effort that defines good business practice, community access and public safety."

The town council earlier this month approved with little fanfare a Verizon site plan for concealed rooftop antennas in St. James. Other applications, such as one for a 120-foot tower to house Verizon Wireless and New Cingular Wireless on property across from Stop & Shop on West Main Street, have drawn skepticism from residents and town officials. Town officials have ordered an environmental study in that case. — NICHOLAS SPANGLER

PORT WASHINGTON N. Eco B district draft law hearing closed

The Village of Port Washington North has closed a public hearing for a draft law that would have allowed assisted living facilities, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers in its Economic B district.

The hearing appeared on village agendas since fall 2017 and has been repeatedly postponed.

Village Mayor Bob Weitzner said at a meeting last Wednesday that the board decided to

table the option because of the "complexities of the rezoning for the stated use." He added that the draft law may be reconsidered in the future.

The village's Economic B district currently permits uses such as offices, storage facilities, libraries, cultural centers, houses of worship and village facilities.

Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers would be excluded, according to the draft law. — CHRISTINE CHUNG

EAST END Nonprofit U.S. finalist as voting ends Friday

The Butterfly Effect Project, a nonprofit that serves several North and South Forks communities, is the sole Long Island finalist among 40 nonprofits nationwide seeking a \$25,000 grant from the State Farm

Neighborhood Assist program.

Funding will go toward expanding the group's free programs for girls in impoverished areas along the East End, such as etiquette classes, cooking and hygiene, said Karen McDonald, the nonprofit's president.

The group, which became a finalist among 200 groups nationwide that applied for the grant, has six chapters, including in Riverhead, Peconic, Westhampton and Bellport, and grant funding could possibly lead to creating more chapters in other areas, McDonald added. Money is awarded to the top 40 organizations as chosen via voting on at the State Farm program's website.

"We have so many great volunteers, but it really takes money to put these programs into place," McDonald said.

Voting, closing on Friday, is at neighborhoodassist.com.

Winners will be announced Sept. 25.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

BROOKHAVEN TOWN Social media policy change faces tabling

Brookhaven Town plans to again table a resolution regarding its proposed social media policy that would prohibit employees from posting town business on their personal accounts.

"The union had some questions, and we're reviewing them with their attorney," said Brookhaven Town Attorney Annette Eaderesto.

The agenda item had been set for Thursday's town board meeting, which starts at 2 p.m.

If the policy is adopted, employees would also be barred

from posting on their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other accounts during work hours except during lunch or other breaks. One exception would allow employees to repost public information or news releases issued by town officials through its Facebook or Twitter accounts. Representatives of the town employees' union on Tuesday did not respond to requests for comment.

Town board members tabled a vote on the issue at its July 12 meeting after a civic leader raised concerns about the policy's content not being posted on the town's website 24 hours in advance, as required by the New York State Open Meeting Law. The vote again was tabled on Aug. 2.

Brookhaven officials said their drafted policy combined elements of policies instituted by other local municipalities.

— DEON J. HAMPTON



Now, that's putting a best foot forward

MINEOLA. The Nassau County Police Explorers, a unit that takes pride through its community service, demonstrates one of their award-winning drills at Nassau police headquarters on Tuesday.

HOWARD SCHNAPP