

Around

SOUTHOLD

Offshore drilling topic of Sept. 25 meeting

The Southold Town Board will discuss this month whether to join other New York communities opposed to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Trump administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, prompting local environmental advocates to push for East End communities to oppose such drilling.

Riverhead passed a resolution Sept. 5 to oppose “any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of New York State.”

During the Southold board’s Sept. 11 work session, Aaron Virgin, vice president of environmental advocate Group for the East End, said, “We want to have complete, unanimous, bipartisan support against offshore drilling.”

Virgin and Brian Langloss, campaign organizer of ocean conservation and advocacy group Oceana, presented a slideshow to the board highlighting several reasons why members should oppose offshore drilling.

Most of the board said they were in favor of opposing offshore drilling. However, Councilman Bob Ghosio, a manager at Southold-based heating oil supplier Burt’s Reliable, said at the meeting that while he had advocated for environmental conservation efforts in the past, he wanted more time to examine whether the presentation had sufficient facts backing the groups’ claims before he made a decision based on an “emotional response” to the situation.

The board agreed to put the item on the agenda for its work session next Tuesday.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Public forum set to address opioid crisis

The Town of Huntington’s Opioid Task Force is holding a

public forum next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Town Hall at 100 Main St.

Members of law enforcement, treatment and recovery staff and families will share impact statements at the forum, which is free and open to the public.

Representatives from Huntington Hospital, the Northport/East Northport Drug and Alcohol Task Force and other agencies will attend.

For more information, contact the town at 631-351-3112.

— SOPHIA CHANG

HICKSVILLE

Extended bus-rail hours on Yom Kippur

Oyster Bay will extend the hours of shuttle bus service between the Hicksville Long Island Rail Road station and its alternate parking lot at the former Sears property for the Yom Kippur holiday on Tuesday, town officials announced.

The holiday hours will run from 5 to 9 a.m. and from 2 to 9 p.m. The regular afternoon schedule is 4 to 8 p.m. Last week, the town began the

shuttle service and opened alternate parking lots because the Hicksville garage, which has 1,441 parking spots, is closed for repairs that are expected to take three months.

— TED PHILLIPS

BROOKHAVEN

Four water districts moving to SCWA

Brookhaven has transferred four water districts to the Suffolk County Water Authority as part of the town’s consolidation efforts.

Town board members made the decision Thursday night after a series of public hearings. The move is expected to cost up to \$2 million.

Funds for the project will come from a portion of a \$20 million state grant awarded to the town in June to help expand efforts to cut taxes by eliminating unnecessary special districts and by sharing municipal services, town officials said.

“This is one of our moves to consolidate government,” Supervisor Edward P. Romaine

said after the board meeting.

The water districts are in Medford, Holtsville and Shirley, which has two districts.

They have been operated by the water authority for about two decades but are considered town taxing districts.

The state grant was awarded through the first state Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition, designed to encourage local governments to combine services and eliminate wasteful spending. Brookhaven bested five upstate counties to win the competition.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

BABYLON VILLAGE

Village hires Reichel as its new treasurer

The Village of Babylon has hired a new treasurer.

The village board of trustees approved the hiring on Sept. 11 of Andrew Reichel at an annual salary of \$85,000. Reichel replaces Arta Wintjen, who has resigned, Wintjen was

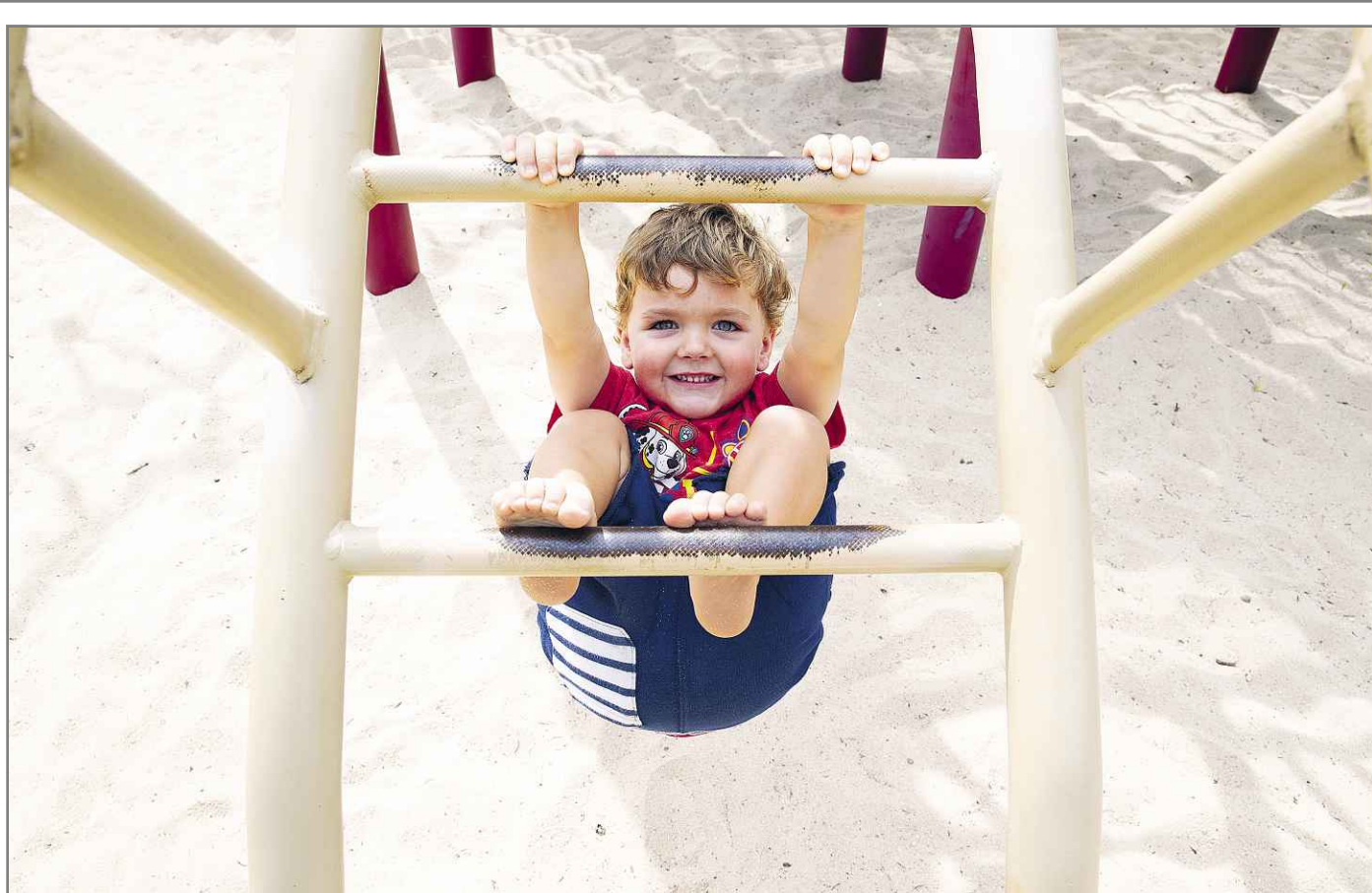
hired in 2017 after the resignation of Valerie Fronzo, who had been with the village 11 years. Wintjen’s salary was also \$85,000, village officials said.

Reichel, of Ronkonkoma, previously spent 12 years, most recently as a senior accountant, at Cullen & Danowski LLP, a certified public accountant firm in Port Jefferson. He graduated in 2002 from Le Moyne College in Syracuse with a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

Mayor Ralph Scordino said Reichel was the “most highly qualified” of the seven candidates the village vetted. Cullen & Danowski counts municipal governments as making up a significant portion of their clientele, and Scordino cited Reichel’s work with such governments as having given him an edge in the selection process.

“It’s very difficult to get someone with that kind of village finance background,” the mayor said. “He’s a young guy, so hopefully he’ll have some longevity with us.”

— DENISE M. BONILLA



RAHNEE DADDONA

Getting the grasp of it

MATTITUCK. Glen Ammirati, 2, of Mattituck held out for some fun at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday.