

## Around

### HEMPSTEAD TOWN

#### Call for hearing on e-cigarette ads

Hempstead Town Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney has called for a public hearing on restricting advertisements for electronic cigarettes and other “age-restricted products” near schools, parks and other places where children congregate, according to a town news release.

King Sweeney cited the health hazards that e-cigarettes, also known as vapes, pose to children and teenagers.

“We need to do everything in our power to limit the exposure that young people have to advertising of these products. The more they see it, the more they think it is OK and we know full well that is not the case,” she said in a statement.

The New York State Department of Health describes e-cigarette use among young people as “a major public health concern,” as the nicotine they contain is very addictive and can be harmful to developing brains. The rate of e-cigarette use among young people in the state has nearly doubled, from 10.5 percent in 2014 to 20.6 percent in 2016, according to the health department.

The Hempstead Town Board in September voted to require businesses that sell electronic cigarettes to post signs warning that they contain nicotine that is addictive and that smoking them can be a health hazard.

Violators of the proposed restrictions could face fines of up to \$1,000, according to the release.

The public hearing would take place on June 11.

— JESSE COBURN

### PATCHOGUE

#### Village, town team up for paving of street

The Brookhaven Town Highway Department is to pave West Lakewood Street in the town and through Patchogue Village as part of a shared services agreement.

The Patchogue board of trustees approved the resolution last week. The village will pay \$17,000 to have the depart-



RANDEE DADDONA

### A good day for a dog paddle

**SHELTER ISLAND.** Patrick Resmini of Shelter Island and his dog, Orin, take a dip in the bay at Wades Beach on Tuesday. Expect sunny weather to continue on Wednesday and Thursday, with temperatures in the upper 60s. The weekend is expected to be mostly filled with sunshine.

ment resurface the village portion of the road.

“The road is in pitiful condition,” village attorney Brian Egan said Monday, adding that sharing the effort makes it efficient and cost-effective.

Mayor Paul Pontieri said Monday that the village and Brookhaven Town have worked on several projects in the past, including dredging the Patchogue River.

“We’ve been married together for 100 years,” Pontieri said.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

### N. HEMPSTEAD TOWN

#### Town’s 311 info line gets 2 millionth call

The Town of North Hempstead logged the 2 millionth inquiry to its 311 call center on May 9 when a New Hyde Park resident phoned to ask whether he could pay his school taxes in cash, officials announced.

The call center was created in 2005 to answer residents’ questions about town ser-

vices and track requests or complaints. The center has a yearly budget of \$540,000 and a staff of 20 call-takers, town spokeswoman Carole Trottere said. On average, the call center takes 170,000 calls a year.

“Our 311 Call Center serves as a model for other municipalities, like Suffolk County, which just recently announced the creation of a similar system,” Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth said in a news release. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone last month announced the creating of a 311 system to centralize calls for county services and complaints.

“In an age of automated voice prompts and robocalls, I know it is very refreshing for people to be able to call Town Hall and hear a real, live human voice at the other end of the phone,” Bosworth said.

The 311 call center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call center can be reached by calling 311 from inside the

town and 516-869-6311 from outside of North Hempstead.

— DANDAN ZOU

### BABYLON VILLAGE

#### Crackdown on leash, pet waste violations

The Village of Babylon is stepping up enforcement of its leash law and pet waste disposal law, both of which include hefty fines.

Village officials have cautioned dog owners to keep them on a leash, except on their own property or at either of the village’s two dog parks, or risk getting a summons from a village code enforcement officer, which carries a fine of up to \$250 for the first offense.

While walking a dog, owners must pick up after them or also risk a \$250 penalty.

Village officials warned residents not to dispose of dog waste in storm drains, and urged people to use the plastic bag receptacles that are installed throughout the village’s parks.

Dogs aren’t permitted on the

village tennis courts, playgrounds, playing fields or school grounds, officials said.

— RACHEL O’BRIEN

### BROOKHAVEN TOWN

#### Decrepit houses may face wrecking ball

The Brookhaven Town Board on Thursday is to consider demolishing seven deteriorating houses.

An engineering firm hired by the town has found the houses to be unsafe and structurally unsound, officials said. Owners will be given 30 days to repair the houses or tear them down at their own expense.

The houses include two on Middle Country Road in Middle Island and one each on Seymour Lane in Medford, Mercury Avenue in East Patchogue, King Road in Rocky Point, State Route 25A in Shoreham and Raynor Road in Ridge.

The town board meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at Town Hall, 1 Independence Hill in Farmingville. — CARL MACGOWAN