

Around

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Hearing on COs for affordable units

The Huntington Town Board is to hold a public hearing on a proposal to issue more certificates of occupancy for market value affordable housing units.

Certificates of occupancy are documents that show a building complies with plans and specifications set by the town's building and zoning authorities and indicate that the building is ready to be occupied, according to the town.

The proposal would allow up to five additional certificates per project to be issued "in an effort to avoid delay in [certificate of occupancy] issuance when unforeseen circumstances arise during construction projects," according to the resolution.

The proposal is based on the recommendation of the director of the Huntington Community Development Agency, noting that "each new construction project presents a unique set of obstacles and challenges" and the town board "wishes to ensure that individuals and families seeking to achieve homeownership are able to do so in a timely fashion," according to the resolution.

The town board voted unanimously, 5-0, at its March 5 meeting in favor of holding the hearing at 2 p.m. at the April 16 board meeting at Town Hall, 100 Main St.

Traffic regulation changes were also approved at the March 5 meeting.

The board approved adding a stop sign to westbound Catalpa Drive at Crest Drive in East Northport, and adding a stop sign on northbound Sleepy Hollow Lane at Wildwood Drive in Dix Hills. The board also approved making 25 feet of westbound Tobey Place from 250 feet south of Fifth Avenue in East Northport a no-stopping zone.

The East Northport traffic changes were unanimously approved, 5-0. The board voted 4-1 for the stop sign addition in Dix Hills, with Councilwoman Joan Cergol voting no.

—SOPHIA CHANG



NEWSDAY / ALEJANDRA VILLA LOARCA

Boy meets gulls

WANTAGH. Jones Beach was a lively spot for birds and boy, alike, Monday, as Sebastian Herrera, 14, of Freeport put some gulls through their paces.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Drawbridge is down (under water, in fact)

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has added an additional 2.3 million pounds of rubble from an old Brooklyn drawbridge to an artificial reef off the waters of Nassau County to boost marine life and the local fishing industry.

The DEC added the detritus from the Mill Basin Drawbridge last month, including materials from a gatehouse building, pier and bridge support, according to a DEC news release.

That followed 2.2 million pounds of the bridge that the agency added to the reef in January.

"This newest addition of Mill Basin Drawbridge materials will provide plentiful habitat for countless species along the Hempstead Reef and increase recreational opportunities for the region's sportfishing and diving industries,"

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said in a statement.

The 744-acre reef lies three nautical miles off the south shore of Nassau County. The state has previously expanded it with materials from the Tappan Zee Bridge and the City Island Bridge.

—JESSE COBURN

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

Demolitions, runway lighting, recycling

Brookhaven Town officials set six public hearings on proposals to demolish vacant and abandoned houses across town.

The structures — inspected by engineers between October and February and deemed uninhabitable — are in Mastic Beach, Mastic, Medford, Middle Island and Rocky Point.

If the town board approves, the houses will be demolished under Chapter 73 of the town code, which provides a "fast track" to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures.

Property owners or their

representatives will be allowed to state their case as to why the structures shouldn't be taken down.

Also at Thursday's town board meeting, officials adopted a resolution to submit a \$99,744 grant request to the Federal Aviation Administration to replace the lighting on runway 15-33 at Calabro Airport in Shirley. Town officials say they expect to be awarded the funding.

Board members also established an advisory committee on recycling to help educate residents about Brookhaven's dual-stream recycling.

The six public hearings to demolish homes will be heard at 2:30 p.m. on May 23 at Town Hall in Farmingville.

—DEON J. HAMPTON

VILLAGE OF THE BRANCH

Village Hall rehab will move staff, meetings

Village of the Branch Village Hall will temporarily close this

spring for a long-awaited renovation, Mayor Mark Delaney said.

"Around the middle to end of last year, we started developing serious issues" with leaks damaging the roof, walls and windowsills, he said. "It's showing signs of age, just like anyone's home would."

Damage included a leak over Village Clerk Christine Cozine's desk, he said. The rehab will be the first for Village Hall in roughly 30 years.

Sheetrock and floor work will start later this month and are expected to take up to 60 days. During that time, village business, including public meetings, may move to rented space near Route 111 and Middle Country Road. Village staffers will post details about dates and the location of the rented space in coming weeks, Delaney said.

Village officials approved a 2018 bond for \$200,000 for the work that has already funded roughly \$30,000 in roof work.

—NICHOLAS SPANGLER