



one of the knitters making blanket squares for Tree of Life synagogue at Knit Long Island Sunday.

JOHNNY MILANO

in answer to hate

religious level," said Levanhar, who is Jewish.

The movement began with social media posts by Yarns by Design a day after the shooting, asking for squares as a show of solidarity. Posts on knitting social media site Ravelry.com show that knitters from around the globe answered the call.

"I don't think that store in Pittsburgh has any idea what they've taken on," Levanhar said.

Knitter Kim Kantor, 35, of Oceanside, said this is not the first time her knitting has paired with an event of na-

tional note. She knitted pink hats for the Women's March in January 2017.

The craft is an inherently giving act, appropriate for sending positivity to a shattered community, she said.

"Knitters love making stuff for people. Once you have your own hat and glove set, it's like 'OK, who else needs one?'" said Kantor, an Orthodox Jew. "And while you're knitting, you're thinking about that person."

The Old Northern Boulevard store is a hangout where knitters, including widows and retirees, gather to talk,

Officials with New York American Water could not immediately be reached for comment late Sunday night.

The company on Aug. 18 signed an agreement with the state to end a state Department of Public Service high-bill investigation of its more than 120,000 Nassau customers.

William Varley, deputy chief

operating officer of parent company American Water, in late August said the company was working toward "implementing the agreed upon rate relief, increasing our communications with customers and restoring their confidence."

New York American Water also will work with the PSC, which is within the Depart-

ment of Public Service, and an appointed independent monitor to review controls and processes, Varley has said.

The GAO investigation will "look into the use of federal funds within the Environmental Protection Agency and more specifically the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund," said Schumer's news release.

snack and create. One square can take up to six hours to complete, Levanhar noted, but the labor is part of the gift.

"It's a way to show my love," said Patti Morgese, 54, of Garden City, a frequent patron of the store, who is not of the Jewish faith. "It's a horrific thing that happened, and if this can bring just a little peace to someone's heart . . . it's a wonderful thing."

Beverly Osrow, 81, of Great Neck agreed.

"Not that this is going to change anything," she said, "but it's an expression of how people feel."

Tentative pact on recycling

BY NICHOLAS SPANGLER
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Three Suffolk County towns have reached a tentative pact to jointly handle thousands of tons of recyclable materials for at least the next six months, Smithtown officials said.

The agreement, expected to be ratified this week by the Smithtown, Brookhaven and Southold town councils, will also include the Huntington villages of Lloyd Harbor and Asharoken. It would end the convenient but expensive system under which residents put all their recyclables out for pickup in one curbside bin. Instead, pickups would alternate between paper products one week and plastic and metal the next, a system known as dual-stream recycling.

Glass, which is difficult to recycle because when it breaks, it ruins other recyclables and the machinery in processing plants, will not be accepted for curbside pickup; Smithtown residents who wish to recycle glass will have to carry it themselves to drop-off points to be established around the town.

Municipal recycling in areas of Long Island stopped last month, and mountains of material started piling up when Brookhaven contractor Green Stream Recycling pulled out of its 25-year contract to run the massive Yaphank facility processing materials for a number of municipalities. Company officials said the operation was no longer viable after a collapse in the global recycling market.

"This gives us some breathing room," Smithtown Supervisor Edward Wehrheim said of the tentative multi-town agreement. "We were looking at probably an \$850,000 to \$950,000 expenditure a year to continue to remove our recyclable products. This agreement will result in us actually breaking even."

Brookhaven spokesman Kevin Molloy confirmed the three towns have a tentative deal.

With tumbling prices and stricter import standards from China, the world's largest buyer, "recycling was on the

verge of total collapse across Long Island" earlier this year, Russell Barnett, Smithtown's top solid waste management official said.

Smithtown officials, working with Brookhaven, in early November issued bid solicitations to Long Island carters intended to test the market for both mixed and sorted recyclables. Separated materials can be more easily marketed and traded, officials said.

Barnett said Friday that Smithtown had selected Winters Brothers Hauling, which will pay \$30 a ton for mixed paper and cardboard, and Trinity Transportation Corp., which will be paid \$68 per ton to haul mixed recyclables minus glass.

Starting Jan. 1, the materials would be stored for pickup at Smithtown's resource facility on Old Northport Road. Smithtown's municipal partners would pay the town \$5 per ton of mixed paper to cover the cost of handling.

Winters Bros. and Trinity had also offered to continue single-stream recycling, but at prices officials considered too high: Winters Bros. asked to be paid \$82 a ton and Trinity asked \$92 a ton.

The contracts can be extended for another six months, if the companies and municipalities agree. But Barnett said, "We don't want to lock into a long-term plan at the worst possible time for markets."

Smithtown officials will soon start another set of calculations to decide if the town should reopen a sorting facility it shut down in 2014 when the town moved to single-stream recycling. Some sorted high-grade metals and plastics still command attractive prices, but the town might have to hire additional employees to staff the sorting facility, officials said.

The future of recycling on Long Island could include more intermunicipal agreements, Barnett said. "You need economies of scale," Barnett said. "If we're all using the same machinery and manpower, it helps us contain the costs and maintain recycling at a reasonable expense to the taxpayer."