

Around LI

Babylon offers senior seminars

Town of Babylon seniors seeking information about, and assistance with, applications for social service programs can attend one of many “Senior Advocate” events scheduled this summer at locations throughout the town.

Attendees at the events, which are coordinated by the Suffolk County Office for the Aging, will receive information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicare Savings Programs and other services, as well as help filling out applications, according to a news release from Suffolk County Legis. Tom Donnelly (D-Deer Park).

The schedule includes events at:

- 9 a.m., July 20 and Sept. 14; Deer Park Public Library, 44 Lake Ave.
- 10 a.m., Aug. 27; Lindenhurst Memorial Library, 1 Lee Ave.
- 8:30 a.m., July 18, Aug. 22 and Sept. 19; Tanner Park Senior Center, 2 Tanner Park, Copiague

A full list of events is available at nwsdy.li/babage or by calling 631-853-8200.

— JESSE COBURN

More on next page

NOW ON NEWSDAY.COM



NEWSDAY / JIM CAVANAGH

Take a look back at what **elections** looked like on Long Island, from campaign posters to vote tallying.

See more at newsday.com/lielections



HAMPTON BAYS

The town wants to lure tourists to Tiana Beach, which had more than 70,000 visitors last year but remains a relatively quiet attraction.

JOHN ROCA

Sun's shining on a little gem

Off-the-beaten-path **Tiana Beach** ranked No. 4 of state's best beaches

BY JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA
jeanpaul.salamanca@newsday.com

The secret of Tiana Beach — long described by residents and town officials as a hidden gem among some of Southampton's very popular beaches — appears to be getting out.

The 1,000-foot ocean beach off Dune Road in Hampton Bays was recently ranked No. 4 among the “Top 10 Beaches in New York State,” according to a list from USA Today.

It was one of seven Long Island beaches on the list, finishing ahead of Coopers Beach in Southampton, Cupsogue Beach in Westhampton Beach and Hither Hills State Park in Montauk. The top spot went to the Fire Island National Seashore.

“This recognition confirms what we already know, that our beaches are among the finest in the state,” said Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. “Indeed, I believe they are some of the best

beaches in the world.”

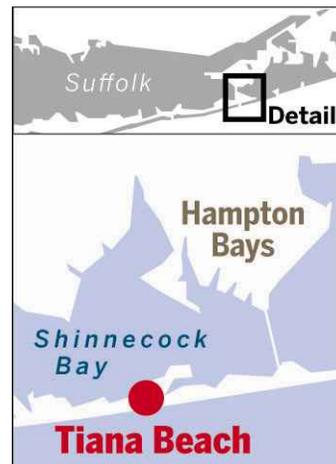
Town parks director Kristen Doulos said the beach has an “off the beaten path” charm to it, having gotten quiet over the years after neighboring nightclubs left the area.

Tiana Beach — which drew 70,897 people in 2017, according to Southampton Parks and Recreation's Department estimates — has been mostly a quiet local attraction compared to the more popular Ponquogue Beach just a mile to the east.

“You look around and you don't see houses, you just see Mother Nature,” said Maria Hulse, 72, a 45-year resident of Hampton Bays and vice president of the Hampton Bays Civic Association.

Southampton Councilwoman Christine Scaleria, who works closely with Parks and Recreation, said the town has over the years invested in several projects at the beach to make it a more viable tourist attraction.

In 2017, the town partnered



NEWSDAY

with Cornell Cooperative Extension to build the Tiana Bayside Recreation Facility & Marine Education and Outreach Center on Dune Road, which holds town-sponsored swimming, sailing, kayaking and wind surfing lessons, as well as marine, art and science programs.

Scaleria said the improvements and the programs have

slowly helped the beach become more popular.

“It's a nice boost to the hamlet of Hampton Bays, which is very well-deserving of it,” she said.

Officials said planned projects across the 1.1-mile section of Hampton Bays from Tiana Beach to Ponquogue Beach could help further the area's growing popularity. The town is building a fishing pier at the old Ponquogue Bridge, and officials are planning a roughly \$2 million renovation of the Ponquogue Beach Pavilion that will include new siding, roofing, cupolas and an expanded deck and is expected to be finished by spring 2019. The improvements are likely to increase the number of tourists and beachgoers, a change Hulse, an avid scuba diver, said she is looking forward to.

“I think it's fair to say Hampton Bays is looking for the tourist industry,” Hulse said. “You could shop in town, you could eat in our restaurants. It's a great day vacation.”