

Around LI

LAKE RONKONKOMA

Town tears down derelict vacant home

A Lake Ronkonkoma house that Brookhaven Town officials said was a “dangerous eyesore” has been torn down.

The vacant home on Hawkins Avenue was “in an advanced state of deterioration” before it was razed Feb. 6, town officials said in a news release. The costs of demolishing the home and clearing debris from the property will be added to the owner’s property tax bill, officials said.

Officials said the house had been abandoned for about five years, was in violation of town building codes and had prompted complaints from neighbors.

“Removing dangerous eyesores like this house make an immediate impact to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood,” said Councilman Neil Foley. “We will continue to crack down on property owners who do not maintain their vacant houses and demolish them if necessary.”

— CARL MACGOWAN

N. HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Zoning code review for fast-food sites

The North Hempstead Town Board is reviewing its zoning code regulations on restaurant alterations and parking requirements for fast-food establishments, which were adopted two decades ago.

A hearing on the proposed changes will be held March 20 at Town Hall, at 220 Plandome Rd., in Manhasset.

The proposed revision would make the local law more flexible. The current regulation states that any increase in kitchen size or cooking equipment requires a new hearing by the town board of zoning appeals.

“A lot of the renovations we get are really too minor to warrant a new hearing, but the code has a zero-tolerance standard,” said town spokeswoman Carole Trottere.

The current zoning rules also outline a limited number of fast-food operations, which the



JESSICA ROTKIEWICZ

A musical tribute

HEMPSTEAD. Daraeno Ekong, 16, in a Black History Month program Monday at Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School.

proposed law would expand.

The “restaurant industry keeps inventing new formats that don’t fit neatly into our current specific categories,” Trottere said. — CHRISTINE CHUNG

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Board approves two appointees

The Huntington Town Board approved the appointments of two officers at its Feb. 6 meeting.

The board voted unanimously for Assistant Town Attorney Brooke Lupinacci to be the town’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise liaison officer. She is not related to Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci. The program is intended to remove barriers for disadvantaged businesses in the participation of federally assisted contracts.

The board also appointed Leah-Michelle Jefferson as the equal employment opportunity officer in a 4-1 vote. Mark Cuthbertson voted against the resolution because he did not

get a chance to interview her before the appointment, he said.

“It had nothing to do with her qualifications,” Cuthbertson said in a phone interview. “She seems eminently qualified to do the job.” — SOPHIA CHANG

GREAT NECK PLAZA

Trustees OK four election inspectors

Village of Great Neck Plaza trustees have approved four residents to be election inspectors for the March election.

Colette Thaw, Linda Hayduk, Renee Smith and Nancy Cutrone will each be paid \$14 per hour as inspectors, trustees said last Wednesday.

Mayor Jean Celender is up for re-election March 20, as are trustees Ted M. Rosen and Pam Marksheid. They are all running unopposed. Each seat comes with a two-year term.

Also at the meeting, trustees set a public hearing for next Wednesday to repeal a law passed in November that allows village officials to raise

the percentage increase on property taxes higher than the state-mandated cap.

— KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

YAPHANK Apartments, hotel get IDA tax breaks

The Brookhaven Town Industrial Development Agency has approved a package of tax breaks and other economic assistance for construction of apartments and a four-story hotel at a Yaphank multiuse development.

Yonkers-based Rose-Breslin Associates plans to build 295 rental apartments and 146 hotel suites on the northwest corner of William Floyd Parkway and the Long Island Expressway. The development, called The Boulevard, previously was known as the Meadows at Yaphank.

Construction of the apartments and hotel is expected to create 520 construction jobs and 38 permanent positions, IDA officials said. The project is part of a larger development that includes a small retail area. — CARL MACGOWAN

MUNSEY PARK Trustees to vote on election monitors

The Munsey Park Village Board of Trustees will vote at its Wednesday meeting to approve inspectors for the March 20 election after missing an earlier state deadline.

The deadline for boards to appoint inspectors was last week, based on state election law. There are no penalties for the tardiness, according to the Board of Elections pamphlet.

Clerk-Treasurer Tara Gibbons said that inspectors already were selected and that the village was “completely in compliance.”

In response to additional questions about the missed deadline, Deputy Clerk-Court Clerk Maureen McLean said the village was a “very busy office” and that future questions should be fielded by Freedom of Information Law requests.

Petitions for the March 20 general election were to be submitted by Feb. 13.

— CHRISTINE CHUNG