FEBRUARY 2020 | 9th Year, Issue 3



PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PATCHOGUE, NY PERMIT #507

**Snowy owl** visits South Shore MT/Paul Peluso

Meet the St. Pat's grand marshals PAGE 3

**Community gathers** for Thomas Valva PAGE 7

Sen. LaValle retires after 44 years

PAGE 17









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## Meet the St. Patrick's Day grand marshals

### Elsie and Tom Tebbens chosen by chamber for annual honor

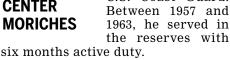
#### **BY GLENN ROHRBACKER**

Tom and Elsie Tebbens have been members of the community for almost their entire lives. This year, they'll be honored at the 18th annual St. Patrick's Day parade as the grand marshals.

"I feel very honored," Tom Teb-

bens said.

Both Tom and Elsie graduated from Center Moriches High School in 1956 as high school sweethearts. After high school, Tom Tebbens worked at his father's metal fabricating shop on Canal Street, then enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. CENTER Between 1957 and **MORICHES** 1963, he served in



Elsie Tebbens started working at the South Bay Bank in Center Moriches, Brookhaven National Lab-



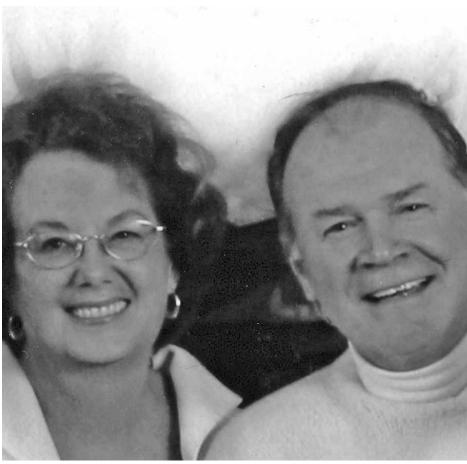
## **CAMP PAQUATUCK** Join Moriches Rotary for a tea party

The Moriches Rotary Club will host a Royal Tea Party on Sunday, Feb. 9 at Camp Paquatuck. The event will run from 2 to 4 p.m. with tea, treats, crafts, and all things pink. Adult tickets are \$12 and children \$8. Advanced ticket purchase is not required, but strongly encouraged as last year's event sold out. Tickets can be purchased at www. morichesrotary.org. All proceeds benefit Moriches Rotary programs.

Courtesy photo

## Do you notice a difference?

We are happy to unveil this brand-new design for your hometown newspaper. We've spent the past several months working to make the reading experience better, and we hope you enjoy the changes we've made. You can still expect the same top-quality coverage of your community. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us.



Elsie and Tom Tebbens have been in the community almost their entire lives and are the owners of a business now in its third generation.

oratory, and then at Rockefeller Center as a secretary with NBC. She said they would write letters back and forth during this time while Tom was serving in the Coast Guard.

Tom and Elsie married in 1960. They've been in their current home since 1965, converting what used to be a barn into their own living space. They have five children—Beth Ellen, Elisa, Melanie, Rebecca and Thomas II—and 11 grandchildren. Tom Tebbens took over his father's shop, renamed Tebbens Steel, where he and Elsie worked side by side for decades. Elsie retired as CFO eight years ago and Tom is semi-retired, but still works on projects. Thomas II is now COO and the company has grown from the original shop on Canal Street to a new plant in Calverton with over 50 employees.

The five Tebbens children went to St. John's Catholic School in Center Moriches, and Tom and Elsie ended up putting a lot of time into working with the church and school. They helped organize dances, bazaars, Christmas fairs, holiday celebrations and fundraisers. Elsie was president of the Rosary Society and Tom was a member of the school board from 1974 to 1982. Tom is also a former member of the Center Moriches Fire Department and the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association.

Courtesy photo

"We've always been active in the community," Elsie Tebbens said.

Where's the Irish? Tom's maternal grandmother was born and raised in Ireland, in County Mayo. The heritage continues down to their children, too-two of their four daughters married men from Dublin, Ireland. And Thomas II married an Irish stepdancer.

"Tom and Elsie Tebbens are such wonderful, wonderful individuals," said Julie Pratt, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches. "It's a wonderful thing when you can recognize someone in your community when they've been there that long."■

### How to get your Irish on

The 18th annual St. Patrick's Dav Parade will be on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. on Main Street in Center Moriches. There will be a dinner honoring Elsie and Tom Tebbens at Rock Hill Country Club on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and include a buffet, open bar and entertainment.

4

## BNL tapped for 'one-of-a-kind' ion collider

Collider will show 3-D images of the building blocks of all matter

#### BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Energy named Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton as the site for a new Electron-Ion Collider. The facility will be used to study the relationship between the basis of all matter, electrons and protons.

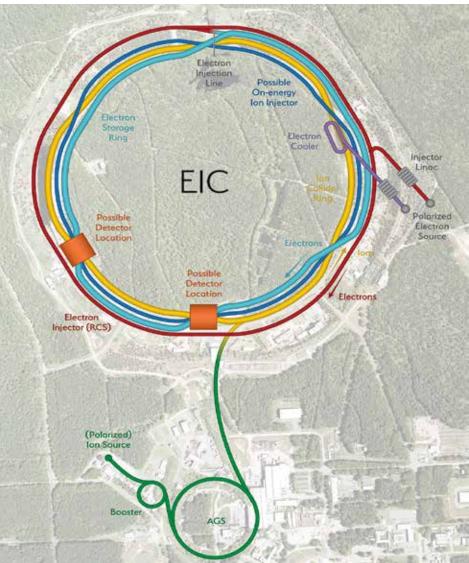
According to a statement from BNL, the EIC will be funded by the federal government through the DOE Office of Science,

**UPTON** drawing on expertise from throughout the DOE national laboratory complex and at universities and research institutions around the world, including Stony Brook University, a managing partner of Brookhaven Lab. Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab) in Newport News, Va., is expected to be a major partner in the project and make significant contributions. "The Electron-Ion Collider will open up a new frontier in nuclear physics that will expand our knowledge of the fundamental constituents of the atoms that make up all visible matter in the universe today and the force that holds it all together," said Brookhaven Lab director Doon Gibbs. "We look forward to working with Jefferson Lab, other DOE labs, universities and the worldwide EIC user community — about 1,000 scientists from 30 nations — to deliver the EIC and advance

#### Inside an EIC collision

As electrons collide with ions within the EIC, the quarks within the proton or nucleus will burst and scatter. Particles ejected from the collision strike various components of one of the detectors within the system. Scientists study the patterns and characteristics of the particles produced to tease out the internal structure of the protons and ions, including the distribution of quarks and gluons.

Source: Brookhaven National Laboratory



It will take collaboration between physicists, engineers and technicians from Brookhaven and other research laboratories to design and build innovative accelerator and detector technologies to create the collider.



New equipment will be added to these giant, underground tubes used to isolate and test molecules, leading to research that could involve up to 1,000 scientists from 30 nations.

Photos courtesy of Brookhaven National Laboratory

first-ever tomographic 3-D images of the

"ocean" of gluons within, according to

BNL. Tomographic images split a 3-D pic-

ture into layers, allowing scientists to see

go deeper into the pieces within protons:

gluons and quarks. The mystery behind

these particles and their inability for iso-

lation will be a major piece of the project.

The EIC will make use of some of the

infrastructure already in use by the Rel-

ativistic Heavy Ion Collider. According to

BNL, a new electron source and electron

accelerator and storage rings will be add-

ed inside the RHIC tunnel so that colli-

sions take place at points where the stored

ion and electron beams cross.

The Machine

The collider will allow scientists to also

deeper into the ions they are studying.

this important field of science."

The world-leading science that an EIC will achieve will impact health and medicine, national security, nuclear energy, radioisotope production and industrial uses of particle beams, according to BNL.

"This cutting edge project will inject billions of dollars and an extensive number of jobs into New York's First Congressional District, all while churning out scores of scientific discoveries that help us understand the world around us," said Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Patchogue).

#### **Project Goals**

The EIC will bring high-energy electrons into head-on collisions with high-energy protons or atomic nuclei to produce "freeze-frame" snapshots of those particles' inner structure, creating the

#### A project 20 years in the making

"It's very exciting," said Abhay Deshpande, a professor at Stony Brook University and a leader in Brookhaven Lab's Electron-Ion Collider effort.

Deshpande has spent 20 years working to have the Electron-Ion Collider project come to fruition. He said it's a key piece of technology in order to understand the building blocks of the universe. He added that scientists have spent 50 years trying to come up with answers for these complex questions.

"We don't know many, many things about this structure," Deshpande said of the protons his team will be studying.

It not only took decades to happen, but hundreds of people from around the world have had their hand in this project. Deshpande said it took 1,000 people from 180 locations in 30 countries to contribute to the initiative. When it's built, the collider will be the only one of its kind in the world, and researchers will be able to visit and use the machine for their studies.

The collider came about after researchers like Deshpande couldn't find answers to questions they had on the proton. They knew it was made up of quarks and gluons, but they didn't know where they came from or how they came together to make the proton. About 20 years ago, researchers realized they needed a "soft collision" of protons and electrons so that the particles wouldn't get destroyed and scientists could essentially perform an MRI on the proton. They've spent the last 15 to 20 years developing the technology to get it done.

"This is the only machine in the world that will do these kinds of experiments," Deshpande said.

After those experiments are done, the results will be published and handed over to theoretical physicists, who then will look to establish ideas about what was found. Deshpande expects the first experiments with the collider to be performed in 2030, give or take, depending on funding and resources.

# New children's book full of local references

## "Sand Castle of Dreams" written by local woman

#### **BY GLENN ROHRBACKER**

Cassandra Levy, a Center Moriches resident, is a business intelligence analyst by day, but recently published her first children's book: "The Sand Castle of Dreams."

Levy, who moved to Center Morich-

#### es six years ago and grew up on the North Shore, initially started her journey by placing a "little free library" in her community. She wanted to promote

**CENTER MORICHES WORICHES WORICHES** 

ies really build communities," Levy said. "That's what really pushed me to get this done."

The library, which opened last year, is

just past the corner of Winnie Road and Belleview Avenue.

Then Levy had a thought: what if she could put her own book in that library?

Using inspiration from around her— Levy describes herself as beach-obsessed—she wrote a book about a young girl who overcomes insecurity to act on her dreams. In between the state of wake and sleep, she sets sail on a giant oyster shell in a sea of her tears and discovers an enchanted sand castle, according to the book summary. This sand castle has its trickeries, but reveals the secrets to believing in herself. The book is ideal for ages 7 to 11.

Levy self-published her book in order to keep it in its truest form. She was also able to use the beach near her home and the neighborhood in which she lives as inspiration.

"I can really walk to a location in my book near where I live," Levy said.

Levy dedicated the book to her two children, Bryce, 6, and Brody, 3, who she wants to inspire to act on their dreams, like the main character.

"The Sand Castle of Dreams" is available for \$14.99 on Amazon. ■



Courtesy photo

## Help Keith find his Valentine: Ellen DeGeneres

Keith Caputo is trying to find love this Valentine's Day—love from Ellen DeGeneres. Caputo, founder of Helping Makes U Happy, has tried in the past to get Ellen to notice him. In 2015, he asked her, "Ay Chihuahua, Ellen won't you please be my valentine?" Caputo and his mom, Cassy, are asking supporters to reach out to Ellen on social media and ask her to be Keith's valentine. You can participate by posting, "C'mon Ellen—show Keith some love. Look at all he does!" on social media on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. *-Glenn Rohrbacker* 

Cassandra Levy with her son, Bryce, at the "little free library" she installed in her neighborhood in Center Moriches.

Courtesy photo

5

**IDE OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE** 

FEBRUARY 2020 thetidefrommoriches.com

# **Eight-year-old left to die in frigid temps**

### Father, fiancée arrested for murder

#### **BY NICOLE FUENTES**

Suffolk County Police Department held a press conference late last month

### CENTER **MORICHES**

providing details into the active investigation in which a Center Moriches 8-year-old

boy was pronounced dead on Friday, Jan. 17.

The father, Michael Valva, 40, of Center Moriches, a confirmed New York City police officer, reported that his son, Thomas Valva, 8, was found unconscious in the driveway after falling while waiting for the school bus at approximately 9:40 a.m. that morning.

Upon arrival, police found Michael Valva conducting CPR on his son in the basement of the home. He was then transported to Long Island Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead with a body temperature of 76 degrees.

However, according to police commissioner Geraldine Hart, after further investigation from the police medical examiner, it was found that the timing and nature of the death did not confirm the father's report. Rather, police found that Thomas had never been in the driveway and had been left in the attached, unheated and unfinished garage overnight, with outside temperatures of 19 degrees. He also sustained head and facial injuries that did not fit the father's

account. The major contributing cause of death, according to the medical examiner's office, was hypothermia.

'Police have arrested [both] Michael and Angela Pollina [his fiancée] for the death of his 8-year-old son for engaging in conduct that created a grave risk of death for this child," Hart explained, stating that both have been charged with murder in the second degree after an arraignment that weekend. "We want to express our sincere condolences to Thomas Valva's family and friends, especially his siblings."

In the home, located on Bittersweet Lane in Center Moriches, Valva had two additional children, aged 6 and 10; Angela Pollina, 42, and her twin daughters, aged 11, and

"An event of this magnitudedaughter, aged 6, also lived in the death of a child this age—it Police believe is unimaginable to all of us as Michael Valva's parents and mothers." 10-year-old son was also a victim of abuse,

**GERALDINE HART,** Suffolk County Police Commissioner

his brother. Thomas, were

while he and

the home.

subjected to punishment of food deprivation and exposure to frigid temperatures.

"We are still investigating the extent of the abuse and if it extended to all the children," Hart added, explaining that as of Friday, Jan. 17, Child Protective Services removed all five children from the home and are currently in a safe environment.

Hart explained that after a review of



Angela Pollina was also arrested for the death of Thomas Valva.

the video and audio footage taken from the family's home surveillance system. it had been revealed that the pair were closely monitoring all the actions and conversations of all five children. She also confirmed that according to Thomas's mother, Justyna Valva, who was undergoing a custody battle, Thomas suffered from autism, but it was unconfirmed whether the 10-year-old son did as well.

Also, Justyna Valva's Twitter account details years of abuse and the inability to gain custody of her children despite reports taken by the East Moriches School District, who declined to comment.

According to police officers, they had

been called to the home before for the custody arraignment and a welfare check was done back in May of 2019. However, the family was not home at the time. "An event of this

magnitude-the death of a child this age-it is unimag-

inable to all of us as parents and mothers," Hart continued, stating that the police are working closely with the commissioner of the Department of Social Services. "We are going to look at every interaction this child had with the system."

Several vigils were held in the Center Moriches area in the wake of the young boy's tragic death. Funeral arraignments were set for yesterday, Jan. 30. His visitation was held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Mangano Family Funeral Homes in Deer Park.

The New York City Police Department

WHAT'S BEING DONE:

Last month, Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone announced that members of the Internal Review Committee will be performing a top-to-bottom review of the Valva case in the Department of Social Services. In addition to the Internal Review Committee, Bellone announced the establishment of an external task force to review all Child Protective Services policies and procedures as they relate to children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The internal review, which will be overseen by the new Suffolk County Department of Social Services commissioner Frances Pierre, will examine departmental procedures and actions in the Valva case. As part of the review, committee members are tasked with recommending any changes to existing policies, procedures, regulations or laws that should be implemented to help prevent future tragedies. Suffolk County will also work with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services as they conduct an independent review of the case, as well as the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, which is handling the ongoing criminal prosecution.

Also, presiding officer Rob Calarco is working to establish an external task force to review all Child Protective Services policies and procedures as they relate to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. The task force will be charged with reviewing procedures for how services are provided to children with autism or other developmental challenges under current law, determine if the current system leaves children with disabilities more vulnerable, and whether additional safeguards need to be enacted.

stated that Michael Valva entered the department in 2005, assigned to transit. He has been suspended without pay. If convicted, he and Pollina face 25 years to life in prison.



The New York City Police Department stated that Michael Valva entered the department in 2005, assigned to transit. He has been suspended without pay.

MT/Fuentes

# **Church puts focus on protecting children**

### A candlelight vigil for Thomas Valva brings the community together to fight for reform

#### BY SAM DESMOND

The Thomas Valva saga is the most heartbreaking story that has captured Long Island because at its core is every community's most sacred resource: a child. In towns all over Nassau and Suffolk counties, parents sacrifice all abilities—social, financial, emotional—to pro-

#### CENTER MORICHES

vide the best upbringing for their children, and the Valva case is proving to tell a tale that is antithetical to

the spirit of Long Island as a place where family life is directed by the well-being of their kids.

On Monday, Jan. 27, at 5 p.m., a candlelight vigil and reception was held in honor of Thomas Valva at the St. John's the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Center Moriches, where Thomas had previously gone for religious instruction prior to his untimely death on Jan. 17.

By 4:45 p.m., Ocean Avenue, the block where St. John's is located, had cars parked along both sides of traffic up two entire streets by attendees of the vigil. Mourners walked quickly to be in attendance by the start of the event, with many flowing out onto the steps of the church as the substantial holding capacity of the interior proved inadequate for the outpouring witnessed by the congregation.

Paschal candles were distributed by members of the church to the attendees. The paschal candle holds significance as it is only lit for Easter, baptisms, and in the case of Thomas Valva, funerals. Attendees were somber for the vigil and at times in tears, as Fr. John Sureau spoke of the darkness that had befallen.



The Munsch family came out to support justice for Thomas Valva as many other families with young children attended the vigil held for Thomas at St. John's Church.

In a stirring speech, Sureau reminded attendees that "light is brightest in the midst of darkness... As we gather and pray for another, Thomas, we have seen a great light." As the choir sang, angelic voices were contrasted with anguished crying eyes.

Parishioner Linda Nichols, who attended with her two grandchildren, said, "Father John encouraged us to bring the children to this event," and that she had come "to honor Thomas and to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Amidst the quiet, dignified sobs, were families united in wanting to make a systemic change after what is largely seen as an institutional failure for Thomas Valva. As attendees walked from the church to the nearby auditorium, talk of holding authorities accountable for the perceived injustice dominated. Local resident Victoria Strong, who dabbed at tears throughout the service, said, "My children are older, but we're a small community. It affects everyone." ■



A reception was held at St. John's auditorium for vigil attendees, with tables decorated in blue for child abuse awareness, and yellow for Thomas Valva's favorite color.



Attendees embraced each other's pain as they worked to light their paschal candles, a tradition held for Easter, baptisms and funerals.

#### Photos MT/Desmond

## **Crush your New Year's resolutions at AM Fitness**

Courtesy photo

## New cycling studio now open in Center Moriches

#### BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

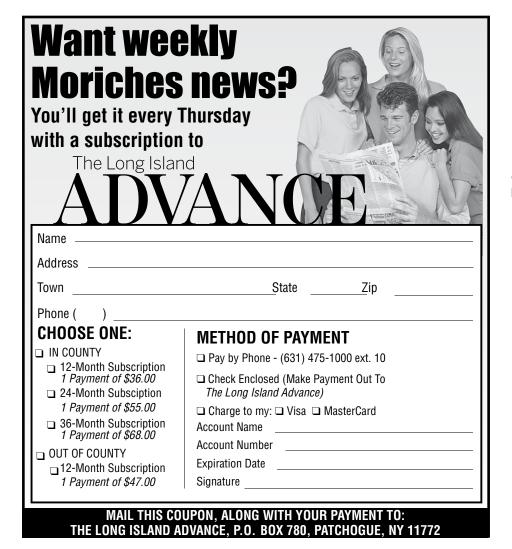
When Amanda Mercurio tore her ACL a few years ago, the first step of her physical therapy rehabilitation was to hop on a stationary bike.

"Riding the bike definitely helped me improve," she said.

Now, her fondness for cycling has led to her and her husband, Michael Mercurio, opening AM Fitness & Cycle in Center Moriches. The studio, which opened in December, offers cycling classes for all skill levels, as well as group strength training and personal training.



Students in cycling class can expect a fun, safe environment for a good workout.



Mercurio, 27, has been a personal trainer for six years, and has been teaching cycling locally at other locations. She felt Center Moriches could use a studio like this, as there isn't one close by.

"Cycling is one of my favorite types of cardio," she said.

Originally from Hampton Bays, Mercurio and her husband, originally from East Moriches, moved to Center Moriches two years ago. After a year of planning and searching for the right location, the Mercurios found 760 Montauk Hwy (Unit 4).

The 45-minute cycling classes are built to apply to all fitness levels, and Mercurio wants to "create an environment where people feel comfortable." She said personal goals and limitations are taken into account, as well as any injuries. The cycling classes are music-oriented and fun, Mercurio said. She added that she wants to provide people a good time and a great workout.

AM Fitness has different types of memberships, which include class packs to monthly unlimited membership. They are currently running two classes for \$20 special for first-timers. The schedule for classes is online at their website, www. amfitnesscycle.com. The studio is also integrated with the MINDBODY app. ■

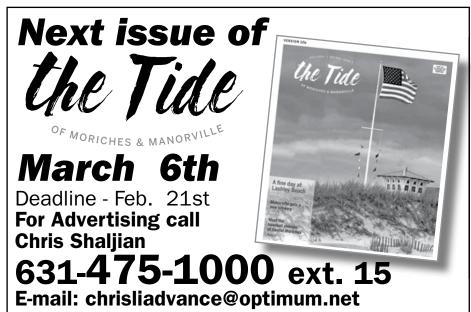
### **Fun Fact**

Expect to burn roughly 400-600 calories in one session of cycling.



"Cycling is one of my favorite types of cardio," Amanda Mercurio said. She and her husband, Michael, recently opened AM Fitness & Cycle in Center Moriches.

MT/Rohrbacker



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72

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

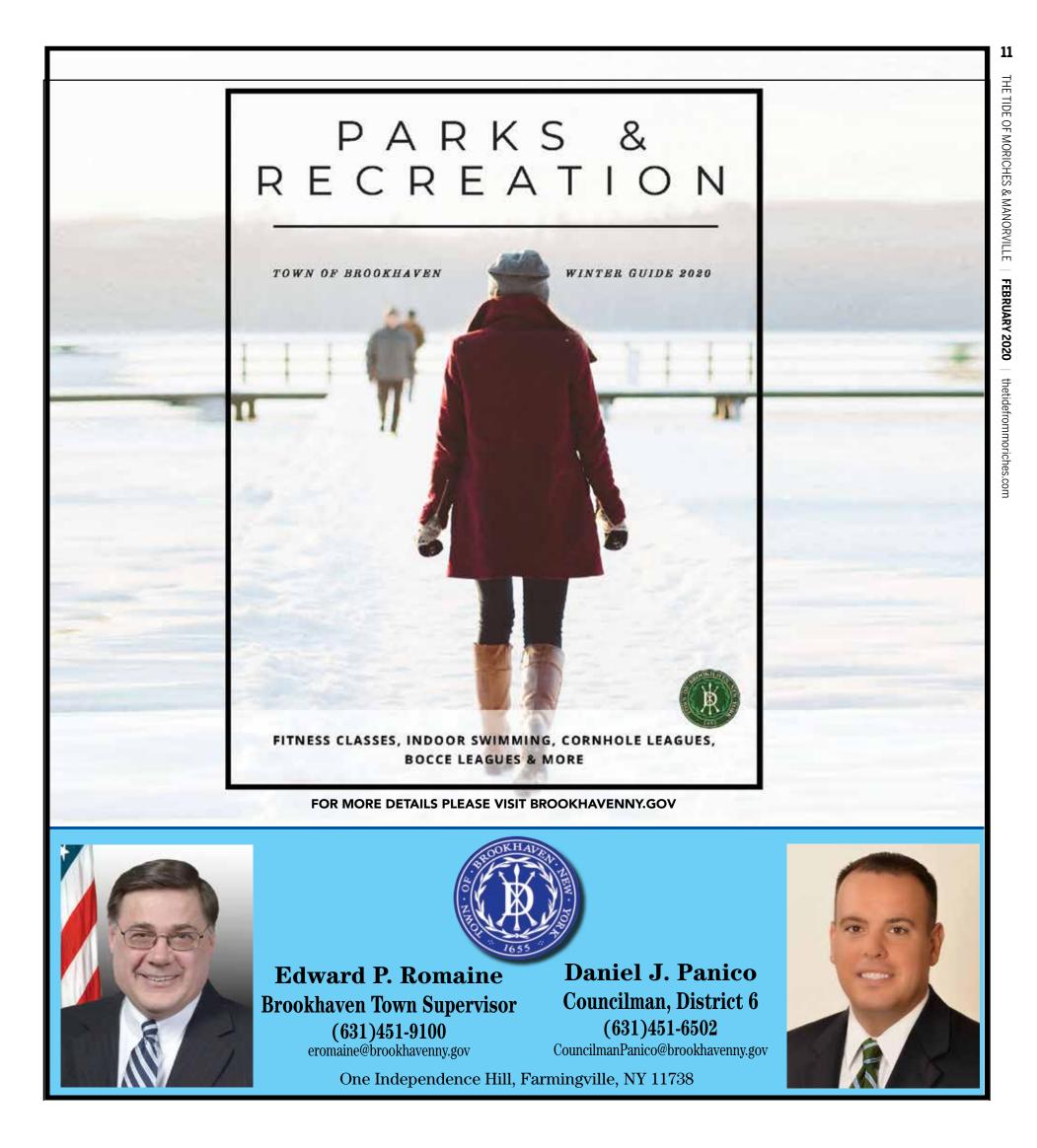
center Moriches 18th Annual

Sunday, March 15th, 2020 Starting at 2:00 pm Main Street, Center Moriches

Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches St. Patrick's Day Parade Dinner Friday, March 13, 2020 *Honoring* 2020 Grand Marshals Thomas & Elsie Tebbens Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville at 7:00 PM <u>Tickets are \$65 per person</u> Included buffet dinner, open bar, music and entertainment with Irish Step Dancers

for tickets or more information Call 631-878-0003

To advertise in the parade journal which helps the Chamber pay for the parade, Call Gerry Sapanaro at 631-878-0003





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## **KEITH'S CORNER**

## Loving to give this February



Helping Makes U Happy loves the month of February!

We started off the month by delivering our Super Bowl Party Packages to raffle winners Michelle Clements of Mastic Beach on Feb. 2, and to Tracy Sigerson's Center Moriches Classroom on Feb. 3. Nothing makes us happier than seeing all the smiling faces of people who have supported our scholarships for deserving students who help their communities.

Pictured above is founder Keith Caputo, who'd like you to know about a very special opportunity to show some love to those close to your heart on Valentine's Day, and raise money for helping in your community at the same time. On Feb. 14, Brother's Four Pizza and the DQ Sisters will be offering a heart-shaped pizza and delicious DQ round- or heart-shaped cake (four serving size) combo for \$35! Cakes available in a variety of flavors such as Oreo blizzard, Reeses peanut butter cup blizzard, chocolate chip cookie dough blizzard, and classic van/choc combo for \$35! \$5 of every order will go directly to Helping Makes U Happy! Pre-orders are encouraged and the first 45 orders will also come with an adorable bear like the one shown. To pre-order please call Brother's Four at 631-878-1547 or private message @dqmedford on Facebook. All pickups will be at Brother's Four.

Hurry and get your pre-orders in-you don't want to miss out! On Sunday, Feb. 23, HMUH, together with the James V. Kavanaugh Columbian Club, will be sponsoring a Chinese auction at the Knights of Columbus building on Madison Street in Mastic to benefit a young man who was the tragic victim of gun violence and is now deemed a quadriplegic. This event will help with uncovered expenses, retrofitting the home, and many other supports for the young man and his family. The doors open at 2 p.m., winners chosen at 3:30 p.m.

For more information or to donate a prize or gift certificate, please contact Teresa 631-655-4883. Happy Valentine's Day, everyone—remember to tell people you love them every day.

## **POLICE BLOTTER**

#### **Center Moriches**

Hygiene products were stolen from CVS on Jan. 13.

A cell phone and cash was stolen at 504 Montauk Highway on Jan. 18.

A man's 2004 Honda Civic was stolen after he was approached by three men who asked him to help jump their car, and while he stepped inside at 386 Main Street, they stole his vehicle.

#### Moriches

A coin collection was stolen from a home at Crystal Beach on Jan. 15.

#### CRIMESTOPPERS

#### Wanted for burglary

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and detectives from the Southampton Town Police Department are seeking the public's help to locate a man who is wanted in connection with a burglary that occurred in Eastport in December.

A man, entered his neighbor's residence, located on Old Country Road in Eastport, on Nov. 9 at approximately 9:50 p.m. During the burglary, he had a confrontation with the homeowner as she was attempting to leave the residence. He fled the scene in a green 1994 Jeep Cherokee with a New Hampshire license plate 2301760.

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers offers a cash reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest. Anyone with information about these incidents can contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers to submit an anonymous tip by calling 1-800-220-TIPS, utilizing a mobile app which can be downloaded through the App Store or Google Play by searching P3 Tips, or online at www.P3Tips.com. All calls, text messages and emails will be kept confidential.

#### ORICHES BA GARD

#### Patiently waiting for spring

Is everyone snuggled in, waiting for spring? We'll see what Punxsutawney Phil has to say.

I am in Florida enjoying nice, sunny weather, but before I headed south, the snowdrops were breaking ground, and so they are on track to be blooming later this month no matter what Phil says. My daughter will send a picture so I won't miss the preview of spring.

Meanwhile, a reminder to members and all interested parties, the Bayard Cutting Arboretum has ongoing registration now for its continuing evolution in the American landscape program, "Gardening in the 21st Century." Speakers will cover using modern technology such as

computer programs, geographic information systems, drones and apps.

For info: www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com/symposium. One of our members, Lillie Brown, is set to go, so we look forward to what information she brings back to the club. Don't forget about our own Cornell Cooperative Extension, www.ccesuffolk.org, for programs and gardening information.

I'll take a minute to tell you that while in Florida, I have been volunteering with the Punta Gorda Garden Club. Last month I helped members plant 800 annuals in Punta Gorda's History Park. Fellow gardeners told me it was a cinch this year because last year they planted 1200 annuals.

— Maureen Pollack



It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive editorial comment on the news

the Tide		It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide and to make interpretive editorial comment	
OF MORICHES & MANORVILL		J. Terry Tuthill, IV	Nicole Fuentes
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Letters policy: Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous, signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. Our email address is ADVletters@optonline.net. THE TIDE OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

**FEBRUARY 2020** 

thetidefrommoriches.com

## **AROUND TOWN**

## Sunday, February 9

**Royal Tea Party** – Fun afternoon of tea, treats, crafts and all things pink at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, 2-4 p.m. Tickets are: \$12 for adults, and \$8 for children. Purchase tickets from the Rotary Club of Moriches at www.morichesrotary.org. Also available at Moriches Bay Realty, 631-878-0003. All proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club of the Moriches' community projects.

#### **Tuesday, February 11**

**Moriches Chamber** – The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches will meet at the Moriches Bay Diner, 6-8 p.m. Call 631-874-3849.

#### Of Note ...

**Worship Night** – On March 1, the South Bay Bible Church, 578 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches will hold a free, uplifting, contemporary night of worship with popular songs by Hillsong, Elevation Worship and other modern–day artists, 5 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Visit www.southbaychurchli.org or call 631-909-8241.

St. Pitties Adoption & Fundraiser -

Friday, February 14

org/nightout.

Parents' Night Out - South Bay Bible

Church, 578 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches,

will offer child care on Valentine's Day from

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The free service includes

pizza, games, movies and activities. Res-

ervations are required. To reserve space

Mastic History - The Mastic Peninsula

email mphs333@optonline.net, or visit

Historical Society will meet at the Mastic

Fire Dept. hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 631-281-7347,

Wednesday, January 19

www.mphistorical.org.

for your child, visit www.southbaychurchli.

Annual event hosted by Second Loves and RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare and Rescue at Buckley's Irish Pub in Center Moriches on Saturday, March 7, 2-5 p.m. \$20 donation at the door. Includes appetizers, Chinese auction, bagpipe music and animals for adoption. Visit www.rsvpinc.org.

**Community Yard Sale** – Shop for treasures indoors at the historic Masury Ballrooom in Center Moriches, Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Profits will benefit the Masury Ballroom Restoration Fund. Call 631-878-6373.

**Sunday Worship** – Join the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches Sundays for worship and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m., and teen class at 9:30 a.m. Call 631-878-1993.

**County Pass Discount for Veterans** – Veterans can purchase a Suffolk County Green Key Card at a reduced rate with state driver's license and 2 additional proofs of residency. For more information, visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov.

**Boating Classes** – The United States

Power Squadrons offers classes, free vessel safety checks and more. Visit www. WeBoatSafe.org or call 800-341-8777 to find a squadron location near you.

**Books** – The Ketcham Inn Book Shop in Center Moriches is open Thursdays at noon, Friday at 1 p.m. and weekends, at 10 a.m.

**Extreme Weather Safety** – Be prepared for extreme weather. Save PSEG's 24-hour electric service number: 1-800-490-0075; follow PSEG Long Island on Facebook and Twitter for updates before and after storms; and make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in the case of an emergency. Visit www.psegliny.com/page. cfm/Home/Safety for video tips from You-Tube, Sesame Street and more.

**Tech Help** – The Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library offers free, one-on-one assistance to you get started or solve specific concerns with smartphones, tablets, eReaders or laptops. Call 631-399-1511, ext. 240 to schedule an appointment.

## **YEARS AGO**

## Tide publisher John T. Tuthill Jr. promoted to captain

### 75 Years Ago

#### FEBRUARY 1945

John T. Tuthill Jr., publisher of the *Moriches Tide*, who has been on duty in the Naval Reserves, has been promoted to the rank of captain. It is expected that he will arrive in Patchogue this week for a very brief visit.

**Raymond Rumph** of East Moriches reported for duty with the United States Navy. He was given a surprise farewell party at his home on Montauk Highway. Guests included **Barbara Hopper, Martha Martin, Dorothy Rumph, Alexandria Sabasto, Ellen Pokorny** and **Raymond Hayes**.

Mr. and Mrs. **E.M. Benjamin**, of East Moriches, entertained the following guests at a dinner party in honor of the birthday of **Howard Benjamin**: Mr. and Mrs. **Howard Benjamin** and son, Gilbert, of East Moriches, Mr. and Mrs. **Herman Blind** and **Mary Butler** of Eastport.

**Pickford Robinson**, now serving in the United States Navy, visited the Eastport High School and saw his former teammates defeat Hampton Bays in a thrilling basketball game.

The Maple Leaf Patrol of Girl Scout Troop 13, Center Moriches, gave a party and entertained its troop committee in the recreation room of Mrs. **Saul Bell's** home.

The Moriches School Dramatic Club held a meeting and made plans for a Valentine party and to begin rehearsing a play, "**The Ghost in the Green Gown**." Members who will perform in the play include Mary Lou Brown, Virginia Hall, Joan Schlackman and Uraina Kittos.

The East Moriches School stamp club met at the home of **Ella Lemmen** with **Harry Huson** in charge. The topic was "Stamps of Africa." Members present were **Shirley Lukert**, **Arlene Romanowksi**, **Ella Lemmen**, **Josephine Huson**, **Shirley Hart**, **Aino Carman**, **George Dunlap**, **Corinne Valenti** and **Leonard Alden**.

Sponsored by the Center Moriches branch of the Red Cross, men from Camp Upton are using the bowling alleys on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. **Mrs. C. Eckles**, owner, is devoting her time to the cause.

Sgt. **Arthur R. Welch**, of East Moriches, has received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Pacific theatre. After being hit by bombers, Sgt. Welch, although wounded, steered his craft to shore so that other wounded men could be treated.

Miss Jane Mills, of East Moriches, entertained at a party in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Erick Lemmen. Games and a Ouija board were enjoyed. Those present were Mrs. Helen Romanowski, Mrs. Paul Warner, Mrs. Herman Girger, Mrs. Harry Smith, Mrs. Harry Huson and Mrs. Conrad Alden.

Playing in February at the Center Moriches Theatre: Spencer Tracy in "**30 Second Over Tokyo**"; Boris Karloff and Lon Chaney in "**House of Frankenstein**"; Gregory Peck in "**The Keys to**  the Kingdom"; and Charles Laughton in "The Suspect."

## 50 Years Ago

#### FEBRUARY 1970

Seniors at Eastport High School have planned a class trip to Washington, D.C., for April 17 in preference to the annual prom, where they will take a guided tour of the nation's Capitol building, the Smithsonian Institute and the burial site of President John F. Kennedy. Class officers in charge of the trip are **Cathy Eaton**, secretary; **Denise Pasternak**, president; **Ruth Privett**, treasurer; and **Dana Bruno**, vice president.

George Johnson, Diane Piazzola and Robert Strebel are among the children in kindergarten through first grade at Center Moriches Elementary School who worked on their dental health messages to celebrate Dental Health Week.

**Kathy Giammarinaro**, a librarian at Center Moriches Public Library, took a group of children on a guided tour of the new addition to the library.

To help develop basketball players who may some day play for the varsity Red Devils, boys in **Bob Hoyt's** sixthgrade gym class at the Center Moriches School are in the process of learning the basic fundamentals of the game. Among the trainees are **Mark Privett** and **Dennis Donnovan.**  **Louis Strebel** will be supervising all the cooking for the Center Moriches Fire Department's 18th annual Turkey Dinner held at the firehouse. Strebel promises a tasty menu ranging from turkey to homemade pies.

Students in the seventh-grade at East Moriches School enjoyed a change of pace in their regular schedule of classes by attending the home economics class of Mrs. Price and learning how to cook delicacies like French fries and chocolate cookies. Among those taking part in the class are Eddie Dubaniewicz, Terry Frye, Edwin Hamor, Steve Armstrong, Jan Strabek, Jane Lemmen, Helen Wood, Velma Beamon and Colette DiBari.

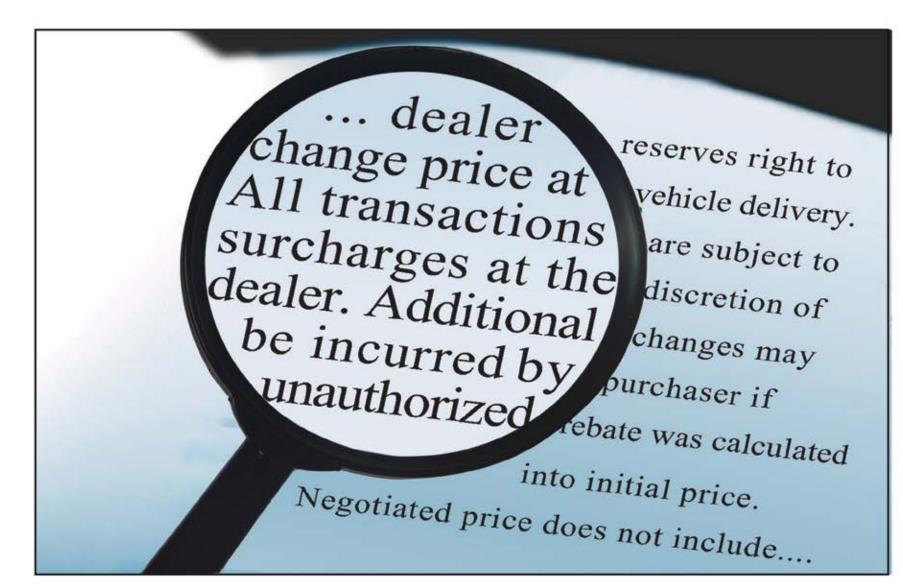
Thomas Sinnickson was crowned king and Sandra Schwarting, queen, at the East Moriches School's Valentine Dance.

Jean L. Kris of Union Avenue, Eastport, has just returned from the Hawaiian Islands, where she spent three weeks with a group of geology students exploring volcanoes on the islands of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii and Oahu. Jean is a senior at Bucknell University majoring in science for elementary schools.

Playing in February at local theatres: Barbra Streisand and Omar Sharif in "Funny Girl"; Dustin Hoffman and John Voight in "Midnight Cowboy"; Steve McQueen in "The Reivers"; and Clarke Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind."

- Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

14



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## **East Moriches Boy Scouts** clean the community

Members of BSA Troop 29 have determined to serve their community in a new fashion after the tragic death of Andrew McMorris and the injuries to members of Shoreham-Wading River's BSA Troop 161. Traditionally, East Moriches BSA Troop 29 cleaned a segment of Montauk highway between the East Moriches Middle School and Kaler's

EAST **MORICHES**  pond. This monthly tradition transitioned to cleaning locations off the road. Locations the troop has served include Saint John the Evangelist Church, the East Moriches Coast Guard station and the Moriches Bay Historical Society. Recently, the scouts and leaders

of Troop 29 have begun a multi-month project to serve through assisting to clean the grounds of the Jewish Center of the Moriches, located in Center Moriches. Members began their service project prior to the holidays in December. The troop will continue to provide service to the Jewish Center in the coming months. As one of the key activities for advancing in scouting is service, BSA Troop 29 will continue its efforts within the local communities.

Courtesy photos





## **Benefit for Red Devils Pride Club**

On Feb. 8, the Red Devils Pride Club will host a benefit "night at the races" to raise money for Center Moriches High School athletes. Doors open at 7 CENTER p.m. and races begin at 8 p.m. Tickets bought in advance are \$10 **MORICHES** and at the door are \$15. Admission includes entry and a buffet drinks are sold separately. There will be \$5 bets and a contest for

best hat. For questions or to purchase tickets, call Danielle at 631-566-5425. -Glenn Rohrbacker

Courtesy photo



## There's a new Eagle Scout in town

On Jan. 26, supervisor Ed Romaine (left) and Suffolk County Legis. Al Krupski (right) were on hand at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Sean Patrick McInerney (center) from Boy Scout Troop 29 in East Moriches. The event was held at the East

EAST **MORICHES** 

Moriches Fire House. Sean's Eagle Scout project was to construct two planters and a bench at Little Flower Children Services in Wading River. He also planted vegetable seeds to provide food for the children and a lesson on the cycle of life. To become an Eagle Scout, one must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, demonstrate

leadership, and perform an approved community service project. Since the award was presented in 1912, no more than 4 percent of all scouts have attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest in the Boy Scouts of America. Since its introduction in 1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than 2 million scouts.

Courtesy photo



## Boys varsity soccer earns LI title

The Center Moriches boys varsity soccer team defeated Carle Place to win the Long Island Class B Boys Soccer Championship on Oct. 31. They moved on to the November regional final, where they beat Burke Catholic School, then to CENTER

**MORICHES** 

difference

semifinals, where they edged out Schuylerville. Standouts for the Center Moriches team were seniors Liam Murphy, Christian Wenzel, Ethan DeVelvis and Byron Miguel-Perez. The boys fell 1-0 in the state

final to Skaneateles in double overtime, with just one goal by the opponent making the

-Glenn Rohrbacker Courtesy photo

# LaValle retiring after 44 years in Senate

## Candidates line up to fill his seat

#### **BY GLENN ROHRBACKER**

State Sen. Kenneth LaValle will not seek reelection in 2020, after 44 years in the Legislature. A Republican

#### NEW YORK STATE

from Port Jefferson, LaValle is known for his saying: "First district first."

"I have been privileged to represent these hardworking, impassioned and compassionate individuals, who have stood side-by-side with me to ensure that we preserve our quality of life and advance the goals so important to individuals and families in our region," LaValle said in a Jan. 10 statement officially announcing his retirement.

LaValle, 80, is known for his advocacy for education, especially within the State University of New York system. He's also known for his efforts on environmental protection, including preserving 100,000 acres of the Pine Barrens and creating the East End Community Preservation Fund to preserve more land. In a press conference in Port Jefferson on Jan. 10, he also mentioned other accomplishments he's proud of, including advocating for foundation aid for schools, expanding mental health services, and creating the STAR tax relief program. He added that many small victories also made his time in the Senate memorable.

"I am blessed to have been given your trust and the opportunity to serve in a job that I have loved for more than 40 years," Lavalle said. "In the year ahead, as I complete the remainder of my term, I will continue my efforts to accomplish the many goals important to residents and to protect and preserve the unique character of the First Senatorial District."

#### Filling the seat

Candidates have already been announcing intentions to run for LaValle's seat. The race has been a long shot for Democrats, who are now capitalizing on LaValle's retirement to get in the race. Four candidates are running on the Democratic side so far, including Valerie Cartright, Brookhaven Town first district councilwoman; Tommy John Schiavoni, a



Ken LaValle is the longest-serving member in the state Legislature. He spent over 40 years as an advocate for the environment, housing and education.

Southampton Town councilman; Laura Ahearn, a Suffolk County attorney; and Skyler Johnson, a student at Suffolk County Community College.

Republicans recently chose Assemb. Anthony Palumbo to run to replace LaValle. ■

### **OP-ED**

## Bail reform leaves holes; innocent people become victims

#### BY ROB CALARCO PRESIDING OFFICER, SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Good intentions are not always answered with good results. Last year Albany passed an ambitious package of new laws to reform our criminal justice system that went into effect on Jan. 1. Chief among these changes was the elimination of cash bail. Since the start

### NEW YORK STATE

hese changes was the ash bail. Since the start of the year, we have seen a steady stream of news articles about

people released under the revised rules who have gone on to commit new criminal acts. At least one of these cases resulted in the death of an innocent person. This new law is not working the way it was designed and has unleashed a range of unintended consequences, putting the public at risk.

That is not to say the way we did things before was without flaw. Under the previous system, the accused would appear before a judge for a bail hearing, evidence was reviewed and bail was set. The accused could pay the money and be free until their trial date. Bail was intended to be an incentive for a defendant to return for trial. In some cases bail was set for as low as \$200, an amount easily afforded by many, but impossible for the poor. Disproportionally, people of lower incomes would sit in jail for minor offenses while those of means paid their way out of jail for far more serious crimes. This inequity was the target of the reform. However, and most important, judges also had wide discretion to simply deny bail altogether in cases where the risk of reoffending or an escalation of violence was too great to grant release. Sadly, that option has been lost under bail reform and has led to the real problems confronting our law enforcement.

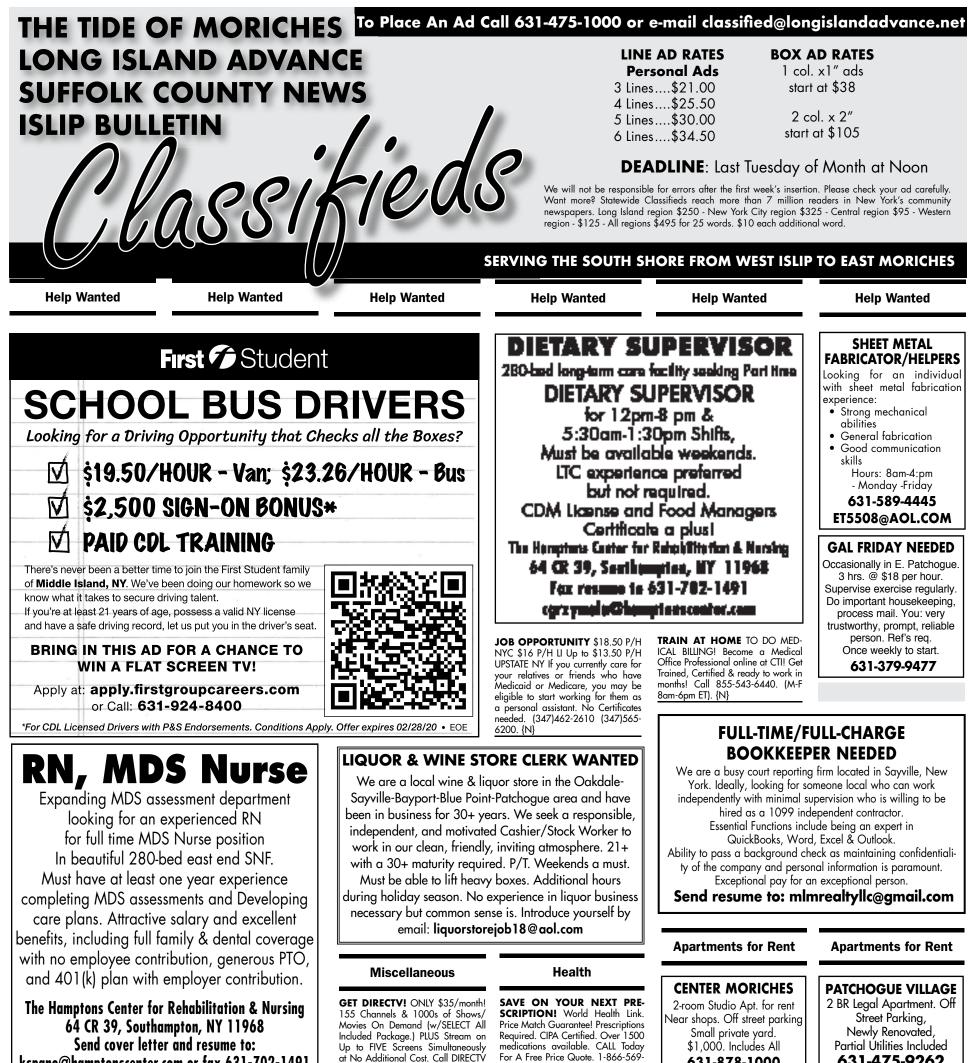
Lawmakers in Albany hoped to correct the inequalities of the old system by eliminating cash bail and creating a speedier process by which those arrested could be released to prepare for their criminal trial. Currently, if you are arrested for a nonviolent felony or misdemeanor, you are automatically granted release. This includes those who have repeatedly committed offenses while they are awaiting trial. Law enforcement officials are reporting arresting people two, three or even more times for the same crime, but they are being forced to release the person each time. Furthermore, certain crimes that were considered "nonviolent" by bail reform still pose a serious risk to the community, such as drunk driving.

Bail reform was rushed through without being given the due diligence it deserves. There are holes that are leading to innocent people becoming victims. But the idea at the heart of the reform is a good one and one that we shouldn't cast away because the current law isn't working. We should not return to the inequities of the past. There are things we can do to give discretion back to judges and clean up some of the new discovery rules so that victims aren't forced to make unfair accommodations to the defense.

I am encouraged by statements from Gov. Cuomo, who has said that changes are needed. Our own representatives in Albany, Senators James Gaughran and Monica Martinez, are leading the charge in the legislative branch with proposals to scale back some of the changes. In the meantime, our local law enforcement here in Suffolk County is working hard to keep our communities safe. Crime is and continues to be, at historic lows in Suffolk County. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, the Suffolk County Police Department and our East End police departments continue to exemplify the very best in law enforcement. We are safer here in Suffolk County thanks to their work, and, if Albany makes reasonable alterations to bail reform, we can continue that trend.

We encourage all readers, elected officials and public figures to contribute op-ed articles giving their personal views on local issues, current events or day-to-day life. All submissions 600 words or less will be considered for publication.

File photo



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18

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**Center Moriches—\$829,900** Custom 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch with many upgrades! Resort-like backyard with inground pool.



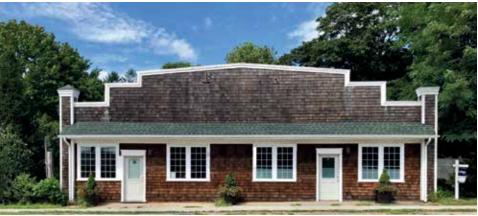
**East Moriches—\$459,000** Beautifully maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath Newport Beach ranch. Deeded private beach and boating.



**Ridge—\$329,000** Well maintained, move-in ready 3 bedroom ranch on quiet block. Private backyard with beautiful Koi pond.



**Center Moriches—\$799,900** Spacious 4 bedroom, waterfront home on Areskonk Creek. 200 ft. bulkhead with dock and boat lift.



**East Moriches—\$599,000** Prime Main Street location! .75 acre J2 Commercial property with building. 2 storefronts plus storage.



**Baiting Hollow—\$539,000** Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath beautifully kept home on Long Island's desirable North Fork.



