

## Around LI

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### CALVERTON

#### Lawmakers OK plan to build bicycle path

A Suffolk County Legislature committee has approved a resolution to spend \$200,000 to finish an 8½-mile bike path around the Enterprise Park at Calverton, on the site of the former Grumman plant.

The resolution was approved 5-0 in the public works committee Monday and will be sent to the full legislature on Tuesday for a final vote.

The measure would more than double an existing 3.2-mile bike path started in 2008 with state and town funds and encircle the site. "Right now, riders have to go out and back; this could allow them to complete the loop," town board member John Dunleavy said.

Town officials, seeking committee approval, said the bike path is a safe alternative to using rural roads, many of which are narrow two-lane streets with no shoulders in a town where agriculture plays a major role.

Jody Giglio, another town board member, said Calverton is planning events for the enlarged path, including a veterans triathlon and a Halloween walk for youngsters. She also said they expected visitors to enjoy the route where people would be likely to see deer and other wildlife.

Additionally, the legislature's environment and planning committee approved a resolution to authorize a new appraisal of 99 acres on Peconic Bay, next to Indian Island County Park.

The property, which 30 years ago was used as a duck farm, is zoned for tourism use, which could allow among other things, a hotel, golf course or a bed-and-breakfast. The property, however has limited access from one road over an existing Long Island Rail Road track that borders the north end of the triangular property.

Randall Parsons, a conservation adviser to the Nature Conservancy, called the acquisition a top priority because



#### READER PHOTO BY BRYAN VELEZ, Massapequa

Flooding yesterday on Riverdale Avenue in Massapequa | Submit your photos at [newsday.com/shareit](http://newsday.com/shareit)

development could have a significant impact on the bay.

The county has made offers in the past but the owner, Stanley Weiss, has been unwilling to sell, officials said. Now, Weiss has expressed interest, Parsons said, and he offered to assist the county and provide a recent appraisal done by the conservancy.

— RICK BRAND

### SEAFORD

#### District raises taxes to reduce vets' tab

The Seaford Union Free School District voted last week to raise taxes by about \$46 for residents to reduce school tax bills by 15 percent for about 600 veterans who live in the district and parents whose children were killed in combat.

Property assessments will be reduced by 15 percent for veterans who served during wartime, another 10 percent for veterans in combat zones and other reduced taxes for veterans with military-related disabilities.

"Gold Star" parents whose children were killed in combat qualify for a 15 percent or 25 percent tax exemption.

Seaford district officials said

the tax exemptions will affect 326 veterans who served during the war, 233 veterans who served in combat, 36 veterans with military disabilities and one parent of a veteran killed in combat.

The school board voted for four separate tax exemptions — for veteran homeowners, veterans in condominiums or co-ops, a transferable exemption from the sale of a home and an exemption for Gold Star parents.

— JOHN ASBURY

### PATCHOGUE VILLAGE

#### Board votes to pierce tax cap for third year

The village will pierce the state's mandated 2 percent cap for the third consecutive year for its 2015-16 budget due to increasing village expenses, trustees said.

The unanimous village board vote came at Monday night's meeting after a public hearing.

"It's to protect us," Mayor Paul Pontieri said after the meeting. "We get elected to take care of the community."

Last month, treasurer

Ronald M. Krawczyk blamed increasing village expenses, such as \$823,000 for pension costs, as the main reason for breaking the cap.

Monday night's vote was 7-0.

The board unanimously adopted a nearly \$13 million 2014-15 budget in April that increased the average homeowner's tax bill by \$46.

At the time, Pontieri blamed New York State for the village exceeding the cap. The current budget increased the municipal tax levy \$196,000, or 2.86 percent.

It included \$2.8 million in surplus. The average home is assessed between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

### HUNTINGTON STATION

#### Kids can meet Santa at farmers market

The indoor winter farmers market has kicked off in Huntington Station, and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon, Santa will be on hand to reward children who have eaten sustainably during the year.

Santa aside, the lineup at this

year's market includes new vendors such as Prasana Tea Co. of Rockville Centre selling loose-leaf organic teas, and Raquette River Baking Co. of Babylon selling a range of sweet and savory baked goods. Returning this year: produce from D & J Organic Farm, Yaphank; artisanal breads from Orwasher's of Manhattan; pasta from Bambino's Ravioli of Deer Park; sausages and other cured meats from Ridgewood European Pork Store, Queens; empanadas from Imperial Empanadas of Huntington; pickles from Horman's of Glen Cove; coffee from Gentle Brew, Long Beach; and New York State farmstead cheeses from The Big Cheese of Mineola.

The market runs every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jack Abrams School, 155 Lowndes Ave., Huntington Station, [longislandfarmersmarkets.com](http://longislandfarmersmarkets.com).

— ERICA MARCUS

### SMITHTOWN

#### New town recycling program starts Jan. 1

Single-stream recycling in Smithtown will start Jan. 1, town officials announced.

The new program allows