

The Port TIMES RECORD

PORT JEFFERSON • BELLE TERRE • PORT JEFFERSON STATION • TERRYVILLE

Volume 22, No. 8

January 29, 2009

75¢



Courtesy of Theodore Kleppe

Cross up!

Father Demetrios Calogredes officiated at the blessing of the waters in Mount Sinai Harbor and the traditional throwing of the cross. Alexander Iono retrieved the cross. Other divers included Tommy John Iono, George Portelos, Richard Reichardt, Philip Signorile, John Luis Denoskos and Pehotis Tsakonoas.



Photo by D. Willinger

Ben, the border collie, responds better since he's been bunking at the barn, golf course groundskeeper Jim Krause said.

Golf course barn serves as Port Jeff working dog's digs

BY JENNIFER CHOI
jenchoi@tbrnewspapers.com

Since arriving in Port Jefferson last June, Ben, a 2-year-old border collie purchased by the village, has been in charge of chasing Canada geese off the golf course at the Country Club at Harbor Hills.

Golf course groundskeeper Jim Krause is Ben's master. For six months Ben boarded with Krause family residence with Krause and his wife. But when the groundskeeper got sick in November, Krause said he found it expedient to remove the dog to the storage barn on the golf course. Later, Krause noticed Ben's obedience had improved; the dog seemed to respond better in the new arrangement, so Krause made it permanent.

On an unannounced visit to the storage barn this week, a reporter was

Continued on page A16



'My Fair Ladies' comes to LI
Also, infrared photos, 'Hansel and Gretel'
Page B1

Stop & Shop stopped the shopping
Port Plaza grocery store to be reborn as Uncle Giuseppe's
Page A7

Stony Brook Sportsweek now in Leisure section
Follow your Seawolves, don't disappoint Wolfie
Page B41



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Prof aids Hudson search

BY JENNIFER CHOI
jenchoi@tbrnewspapers.com

Roger Flood, a professor at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University, has been involved in a 10-year project collecting high-resolution data of water levels throughout New York. So when the disabled U.S. Airways jet crashed into the Hudson River on Jan. 15, Flood provided the data to emergency officials in order to aid in recovering the sunken jet engines.

According to the professor, who has been with SBU for about 20 years, high-resolution data of the river bottom helped officials locate the engines by pointing out areas in which they would not likely be found. This allowed the divers to avoid looking in areas of the seabed that were undisturbed by the jet.

Flood, a Poquott resident, said he was able to assist "marginally" in the recovery of the jet engines thanks to the data he has collected during 10 years of research, which was funded by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. In recent months, he began working in the Peconic and Jamaica bays to determine how the sea bed is being used by organisms, he noted, adding



Photo courtesy of SBU

Professor Roger Flood

that the sea bed "changes slowly, but it does change, just like the land changes slowly."

The longtime professor said he looks forward to continuing his research to help understand the process of seabed evolution and identify places with contaminated sediments.



VILLAGE OF PORT JEFFERSON

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• **Fencing** Starts late March. Contact LIFFES for information at 642-8081

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EXHIBITS & SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE CENTER

• **"A Winter Cavalcade."** More than 90 photographs, paintings and vintage postcards celebrating the Dickens Festival and the holiday season — on display through January 2009.

• **Visit the Children's Maritime Museum** on the first floor of the Village Center; many exciting events and programs. See www.childrensmaritimemuseum.org for schedule and program information.

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Photo by D. Willinger

The chandlery in Port Jefferson's Harborfront Park will house the Children's Maritime Museum as soon as interior renovations can be completed. Until then, the museum remains at its present location in the Village Center.

PJ Village inks deal with Children's Maritime Museum

20-yr lease on chandlery 1st floor hailed as model for future agreements

BY DAVE WILLINGER
dave_w@tbrnewspapers.com

The Children's Maritime Museum and the Port Jefferson Village Board have agreed to a 20-year lease of the first floor in the chandlery building at Harborfront Park.

Following a discussion of the particulars in the agreement at Monday's business session of the Village Board, the trustees voted in favor of the lease, the exact conditions of which were drawn

up by Village Attorney Ken Lauri and Village Trustee Carmine Dell Aquila. Mayor Brian Harty did not attend the meeting.

Over the lifetime of the lease, the village would be paid \$168,000 in rent, a figure that reflects a \$300 per month discount in return for maintenance of the museum space in the chandlery, a historic building owned by the village.

The rent is based on market value, Dell Aquila said, but is

crafted to help the fledgling museum successfully make the transition into the chandlery, which needs interior renovation before the museum can move in. Currently the museum occupies the Skip Jack room on the ground floor of the Village Center.

By signing the lease at this time, the Children's Maritime Museum is able to secure a combined \$150,000 in two state grants, otherwise due to expire, from the

Continued on page A19

Sponsor a kitty condo

Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue and Adoption is seeking donations from the public to help cover the cost of new pet condos to replace the existing steel cages, some of which were destroyed during a break-in at the animal shelter that occurred on the morning of Dec. 24.

According to Suffolk County Police, at approximately 3 a.m. on Christmas Eve, Jose Santos, of Port Jefferson Station, allegedly broke into Save-A-Pet and threw around cages that housed cats and kittens. Suffolk County Police later arrested Santos and charged him with burglary. Dori Scofield, founder, Save-A-Pet, estimated the damage to be worth \$3,000. Lynne Schoepfer, executive director, Save-A-Pet, said three windows were broken during the incident. Twenty five cats got out of their cages and five escaped out the broken windows. Two are still missing.

To replace the cages inside the animal shelter — including those that were damaged in the break-in — each condo would cost over \$700. "These condos are made of wood, and they are sealed and coated," Scofield said. "They are bigger and better than the cages, and it would help cut down the spread of common viruses. These condos will make the animals more comfortable while in our care."

Anyone who donates \$100 or more will receive a brass plate on the condo engraved with their name, their pet's name or in the memory of a pet. Anyone who covers the entire cost of the condo gets a wood plaque with a name plate on their own condo.

For information, or to donate, call 473-6333. Donations are accepted online at www.saveapetli.org.

The week in meetings

The Port Jefferson Village Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed moratorium Monday, Feb. 2, at 7 pm at the high school auditorium.

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Rider dreamt of better connections

BY JIM LAINO
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At 8:23 pm Jan. 20 a Port Jefferson constable called to report a male subject causing a disturbance at the LIRR train station on Route 112 in Port Jefferson. According to the complainant, the subject was arguing with a train conductor and refusing to leave the train platform. The subject stated he was upset because he had fallen asleep, missed his stop and was now stranded for a time in Port Jefferson.

the complainant she should try to find somewhere else to live.

Serious reaction merits quick response

A male complainant called at noon Jan. 19 from a location on Dark Hollow Road in Port Jefferson to report a serious skin reaction to a chemical degreaser he was using. The Port Jefferson Ambulance unit responded to the scene and transported the man to Mather Hospital for treatment.

Disturbance

A complainant, who refused a police interview, called at 5:53 pm Jan. 20 from a gas station on Old Town Road in Port Jefferson Station to report numerous ATVs causing a disturbance in a nearby parking lot. The off-road vehicles were gone upon police arrival.

'Dear John' phone call

A resident of Cliff Road in Belle Terre called at 2 pm Jan. 19 to report an unknown male had phoned and asked to speak to "John." When the complainant asked "John who?" the man on the other end began to curse and answered "John Hopkins," before hanging up. The complainant thought this was strange and wanted the incident documented.

Dangerous game

An anonymous complainant called at 4:40 pm Jan. 16 to report several youths being pulled on a sled behind a white Chevy Blazer driven by an unknown person down Van Buren Street in Port Jefferson Station. Police canvassed the area with negative results.

Parrots of Port Jefferson Station

A female complainant called at 4:11 pm Jan. 21 from outside of the thrift store in Port Plaza on Route 112 in Port Jefferson Station to report that a black Honda Civic was parked nearby. Inside, two exotic birds were perched on the car's steering wheel. The vehicle and its colorful occupants had flown the coop by the time police arrived.

Grand Larceny

A resident of Landing Lane in Port Jefferson called at 6:30 pm Jan. 17 to report a theft of his property, which took place sometime over the previous night.

Plastic pilfered

A resident of Stirrup Lane in Port Jefferson called at 8 pm Jan. 14 to report his credit cards stolen by an unknown person.

Laundry room looters

A male complainant called from a location on Old Town Road in Port Jefferson Station to report a grand larceny. According to the complainant, unknown persons broke into a locked laundry room and damaged the security cameras before fleeing. The complainant stated the incident was caught on tape.

Tenant and landlord dispute

A resident of John Street in Port Jefferson Station called at 11 am Jan. 20 to report her landlord is purposely shutting off the circuit breakers for her stove and other electrical outlets. Police spoke to the subject who claimed that he is not shutting down the breakers and stated it is his opinion that the complainant must be tripping the breakers by overloading them. After speaking to officers, the landlord reset the breakers and stated that he is in the process of evicting the complainant so he could "get her out of the house." The police advised both parties to keep away from each other and suggested to



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Inside this week

News

Columns	A27	Obituaries	A23
Editorial	A26	People	A23
Letters	A26	Sports	A25

Leisure Arts & Lifestyles

Art Exhibits	B2	Father Frank	B29
Ask the Veterinarian	B3	Health	B2-B13
Business	B32	Investing	B27
Calendar	B24-B27	Kids	B29-B32
Cooking	B22	Religious Directory	B28-B29
Dining	B19	SBU Sports	B33-B35

Classifieds

Section C

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Supervisor candidates go head to head in debate

BY KELLY CAMPBELL
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Brookhaven voters packed the Middle Country Public Library in Selden Monday night as they came to size up the two candidates competing to replace Brian Foley as town supervisor.

A special election necessitated by now-state Senator Foley's departure to Albany is scheduled for March 31. Town voters will decide whether he is replaced by Councilman Tim Mazzei (R-Blue Point), the leader of the Republican Town Board majority, or Democrat Mark Lesko, a federal attorney until his resignation three weeks ago to run for supervisor.

Questions by the audience drove the discussion. Initially, the candidates found themselves sparring over the town's embarrassing nickname, Crookhaven.

"It is a term for the culture of corruption that has existed in the Town of Brookhaven and no one who lives here can say it has not been corrupt," Lesko said. "The town still has a culture of corruption that needs to be rooted out. I've done that in my career as a prosecutor and I will do it as town supervisor."

Mazzei denied that a culture of corruption exists in the town. "No one's palms are getting greased in Brookhaven," he said. "If a project is good, it will get

done. If it's not, it won't."

The candidates were also questioned about the balance between preservation of open space and the need for responsible development.

Mazzei touted his participation in the \$100 million land-preservation bond plan, which Brookhaven residents agreed to in a 2005 referendum.

However, the fund is nearing exhaustion, he said. "This town is going to get built out within the next 10 years. Now is the time to buy," Mazzei said. "Unfortunately with less funds coming in from the transfer tax and the mortgage tax, we're not getting as much as we had been in prior years to do that, but it is certainly something the whole board has voted for and I'm sure will continue to do so."

Brookhaven included another \$10 million for land preservation in the 2009 capital budget, Lesko pointed out, but the board has offered no indication of where and when it would be spent.

"I would ask, 'What are we planning to do with it?'" Lesko said. "We need to get about the business of focusing on those historical and open spaces and start preserving that land."

Mazzei noted that the \$10 million had not yet been spent as it was only recently bonded. "But we have a laundry list" of antici-



File photos

Councilman Tim Mazzei, left, and Mark Lesko faced off Monday evening.

pated open-space purchases, he said.

Lesko countered, "Folks should know what's on the list."

That would not facilitate paying the lowest costs for properties, Mazzei responded. "With all due respect, if everyone knew the laundry list, the price would go up," he said. Lesko disagreed, saying such price escalation was unlikely in the current depressed housing market.

Given the supervisor's role as the town CEO, residents also questioned the candidates' administrative experience.

Lesko said that in the second half of his decade-long career with the U.S. Department of Justice, first as an assistant U.S. attorney in D.C. and then for the Eastern District of New York, he

supervised all the federal prosecutors on Long Island.

"One task force had over 100 NYPD detectives, and if you think it's easy to manage 100 NYPD detectives, you'd be wrong," he said. "But that's the type of experience I bring to bear as a leader in the Town of Brookhaven."

Mazzei acknowledged not having as much supervisory experience as Lesko described, but did point to his former role as bureau chief of the Suffolk County District Attorney's homicide division. He added that, in any case, he thought a business background was more appropriate for the town supervisor position.

"I'm a small businessman," Mazzei said. "I had my law practice and ran another business in


the Town of Brookhaven. You have to understand how to run a business and understand that you have to pay the secretary; you have to pay the light bill and the water bill. If you don't understand that, you will have difficulty running the Town of Brookhaven."

In closing, Mazzei said that he stands on his record as a town councilman since 2003.

"I have a record," Mazzei said. "You may like it or you may not but I do have a record. I am very proud of the things we have done in a bipartisan fashion. We've accomplished a lot and brought up our parks and done a lot of other good things."

Lesko said the election offers voters "a choice between a town board which has not been fiscally responsible and a supervisor who will bring a Steve Levy model of fiscal responsibility to the town board."

"If you think the town has been run in a bipartisan fashion and work got done on the citizens' behalf, then ... vote for Councilman Mazzei," he added. "But if you think what was going on in Town Hall was bickering and flat-out nonsense that led me to run for this, and we need someone to get in there and change things and get about the business of solving problems ... then I urge you to vote for me."



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Port Plaza Stop & Shop closes down Uncle Giuseppe's to open in a year

BY DAVE WILLINGER
dave_w@tbrnewspapers.com

The Port Jefferson Station Stop & Shop, longtime anchor store at the Port Plaza, closed its doors for the last time Friday at 4 pm. In its place, an Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace is expected to open by the beginning of next year, according to a press release from Edens & Avant, which owns the 20-store shopping center.

Inside the cavernous Stop & Shop after closing on that last day, a handful of employees lingered at one of the quiet checkout stations near the front door, saying their goodbyes and advising the occasional entering customer that the store was no more.

"I opened this store. Now I'm closing it," shop steward Gloria Maher, of Ronkonkoma, said.

Employee Loretta Tobe recalled the precise date the store opened: June 13, 1990. Back then it was a Foodtown, later an Edwards and for about the last 10 years, a Stop & Shop, the veteran staffers agreed.



Photo by D. Willinger

Customer service staff Marisa Starita, of Centereach, and Georgette Morales, of Selden, chat Friday after the last customer left the Port Plaza Stop & Shop. Both girls will continue to work for the grocery chain at other area locations.

Continued on page A18

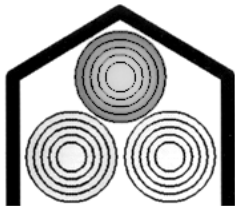
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Courtesy of Maria Munsch

Walter and Maria Munsch of Port Jefferson.

Munsch closes a chapter

Ex-trustee to stay active

BY JENNIFER CHOI
jenchoi@tbrnewspapers.com

Walter Munsch is no longer a library trustee, but his love of books lives on.

Munsch, a 40-year Port Jefferson resident who spent six years on the Port Jefferson Free Library's Board of Trustees, said he became involved in the community after retiring from Wall Street in 1998. Even though he was defeated the first two times he ran for a trustee spot, he knew that he and the library were "just perfect together," he said.

"I love books," said Munsch, who owns 3,000 of them, and reads three to four per week. But at age 74, Munsch admits the late night board meetings have be-

come a little wearying. "I've made a contribution and I'd like to rest up a little bit on Monday nights," he said.

As a technology expert on Wall Street for 44 years, Munsch commuted almost six hours a day, he said, calculating a grand total of four and a half years spent on the "bloody railroad." He witnessed an "amazing 40-year progression" on Wall Street from pencil and paper to electronics, he said. But the price he paid was, "I never saw Port Jefferson in the daylight."

So as soon as retirement came, Munsch began to enjoy the community, and got involved with the Port Jefferson Country Club Management Advisory Committee. He then became a library trustee, an experience that's been filled with "lots of little good things constantly," according to Munsch. He can't recall any "rockets in the sky," the former trustee said, there were "just a lot of good feelings."

"Walter was a very good board member," Library Board President Jacob George said, and added that Munsch was "very diligent" in his work and had a "talent for numbers."

Maria, Munsch's wife of nearly 49 years, also praised her husband's work and said his greatest strength is his integrity. "He is my friend and soulmate," she said. "As I often tell him, he is my four walls and a roof."

Now that trustee Peggy Cohee has taken over his post, Munsch said his next step is to continue to enjoy auditing courses at Stony Brook University.

"I spent a lifetime in technology and I'm finally getting an education," he said, adding that auditing allows him to "just sit there and soak in the knowledge" because there are no exams or papers. Among his favorite subjects, Munsch named history, anthropology, sociology and music.

"I truly enjoy my time at Stony Brook," he said. And when the young students ask him why he takes classes when he receives no credit, Munsch tells them, "I'm here to postpone Alzheimer's."

'I'm here to postpone Alzheimer's.'

— WALTER MUNSCH
ON WHY HE ATTENDS
STONY BROOK
UNIVERSITY

Cohee wins PJFL board seat

Port Jefferson resident Peggy Cohee won a seat on the Port Jefferson Free Library Board of Trustees in the Jan. 21 election, defeating John Cona, a 10-year Belle Terre resident, by 72 to 51 votes. Cohee replaces Walter Munsch, who is stepping down after six years of service.



Courtesy of the PJFL

Peggy Cohee, library trustee.

Cohee is married and has two children. She has lived in the village for 13 years.

The new trustee said she looks forward to better understanding her new role and the inner workings of the library. In these trying economic times, she noted, "It could be both a challenging and interesting time to be involved in the library" because library use seems to have increased significantly.

According to Cohee, who teaches English as a Second Language at Patchogue-Medford High School, she sought a seat on the board because it will enable her to give back to the library.

"I love the library," she said, and described herself as an "avid reader" and a "heavy user" of the facility. Cohee said she is looking forward to attending her first meeting as a board member on Monday, Feb. 23.

— JENNIFER CHOI

Memory is a way of holding
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the things you never want to lose.

"Keep Your Memory Sharp - Where Did I Put It?"

is the title of one of the informative programs developed by Darlene Jyringi, M.P.S., Community Program and Education Consultant for Bryant Funeral Home.

Topics include concerns of being a caregiver, healthy living for seniors, managing stress, when is the right time to give up the car keys, and memory loss issues.

These helpful programs are being offered to local organizations free of charge, courtesy of Bryant Funeral Home.

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Fred Bryant, owner of Bryant Funeral Home with Darlene Jyringi, Community Program and Education Consultant. "My goal is to share useful strategies that will assist the caregivers of our community in learning how to deal with their daily responsibilities."

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Port Jeff Go Green campaign enters second year

Alternative energy, chemicals around the home are new focus

BY KELLY MAGUIRE
port@tbrnewspapers.com

Building on last fall's day-long information fair on the environment, the Port Jefferson Village Go Green campaign, a three-year project established last spring by the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook University with support from the village, will bring to the Port Jefferson Free Library a pair of educational sessions beginning in March, John Lutterbie, the associate director of the institute, announced earlier this month. At the first session, scheduled for Sunday, March 22, Gordian Raacke, founder and executive director of Renewable Energy Long Island, will discuss alternative energy. In May, the focus will be on chemicals inside and outside of the home, according to Lutterbie.

Responsibility

The spirit of service referred to by Barack Obama in his inaugural address, and which the new president called "the promise and the price of citizenship," could be observed recently at a get-together of committee members at the Miller Place home of John and Sara Lutterbie; she is also a director at the institute.

The social gathering was held to "welcome in a greener new year," organizers said, and to further unite the officials and citizens involved in Go Green.

"Port Jefferson is the perfect place to begin our Go Green project," explained Naomi Solo, a prominent member of Go Green. "We're a finite community of approximately 8,000 people, we're incorporated, we have our own government. Essentially we're complete within ourselves and the timing is right — everyone wants to be green now."

Since its inception last summer, the Go Green committee has held regular meetings at Village Hall (the next is Thursday, Feb. 12 at 3:30 pm), where elected officials, representatives from the public library, school district, nonprofit groups, high school students and interested residents come together to discuss ways of conserving energy and what roles government and private citizens should play.

"It's also about changing home life, changing the way you live," Solo said. The committee is extending its reach to schools, encouraging staff and students alike to start recycling programs. "Recycling queen" Rosie Wiesner, Brookhaven's community relations director for the Department

of Waste Management, called lack of enforcement the biggest problem hindering recycling efforts. Wiesner, who also leads the Brookhaven chapter of Keep America Beautiful, said, "Education is key because children get it and then bring it home."

Wiesner believes most people do not realize that recycling will not only improve the environment, it will also reduce costs. "We utilize much energy in fuel, emissions, trucking, when we really can sidestep much of it altogether with recycling. If you recycle an aluminum can, aluminum becomes aluminum again almost right away. That saves so much energy." She mentioned many things everyone can do, such as reusing clothing, books, toys and even Chinese takeout containers. Shifting from the practical to the philosophical, Wiesner said, "We can't throw anything away — there is no such place as away."

Stephanie Costanzo, a retired teacher and resident of Port Jefferson, runs library workshops teaching young and old how to recycle clothing. Costanzo showed high school students how to use tuxedos tossed by commercial outlets and even old fabric swatches from design stores, to create cool clothes. "We did a fashion show at the last Go Green meeting, and it was so fun. Kids from the high school went on thrift shop excursions, recycling men's dress shirts or T-shirts. For only a few dollars, you can create a one-of-a-kind

Continued on page A21



John Lutterbie and Naomi Solo are among the leaders who are working to make Port Jefferson Village Go Green a success and the model for the future greening of America.

Photo by Kelly Maguire



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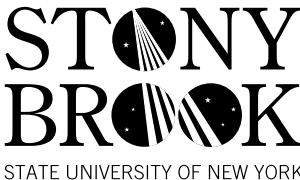
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Female robs 2 banks

Identify this woman & earn reward

Major Case Investigations Unit and Crime Stoppers of Suffolk County are investigating two area bank robberies which occurred in the past month involving a female robber.

The first bank robbery occurred on Dec. 31, 2008, at 9:35 am at Washington Mutual Bank at 60 North Country Road in Port Jefferson. The second robbery took place at Chase Bank, 5499 Nesconset Highway in Mount Sinai on Jan. 7 at 12:43 PM. On both occasions the robber entered the bank, produced a demand note and fled on foot with the cash proceeds.

The suspect is described as a white female, olive complexion, 5'8" - 5'11", 30 - 40 years of age, dark hair, dark eyes, thin to medium build with a possible gap between her front teeth. She speaks with a possible slight accent, either Hispanic or Middle Eastern. In both robberies she was wearing a hat and scarf and she was carrying an umbrella.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS. All calls will be kept confidential and the caller will be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5000 for information that leads to an arrest.



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Partisanship on hold, for a time, at Town Board

One issue resolved across party lines, Fiore-Rosenfeld proposal fails, amnesty for parking violations OK'd



File photo

Council members Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Jane Bonner and Kathy Walsh saw eye to eye briefly Tuesday night.

BY LEE LUTZ
leelutz@tbrnewspapers.com

In a wide-ranging agenda at the Brookhaven Town Board meeting Tuesday night, partisanship was not entirely abandoned but at least one divisive issue was resolved.

On a resolution sponsored by Councilman Tim Mazzei (R-Blue Point) and seconded by Councilwoman Connie Kepert (D-Middle Island), the starting time for board work sessions was changed back to 1:30 pm on Thursdays. Since January 2008, when the Mazzei-led Republican majority moved the meetings to 11 am, the issue has been contentious and partisan.

Kepert is a special education teacher in the Longwood school district. Her Thursday schedule pre-

vents her from arriving before 1:30 pm. The majority's vote to move the start time was considered by the Democratic minority a slap at Kepert, a partisan power play, or both. Mazzei contended all along that work sessions had traditionally begun at 11 am and it was the then-new Democratic majority in early 2006 that made the change. The resolution setting the 1:30 pm start time was unanimously approved Tuesday.

Quickly returning to partisan stances, two bills intended to alter Town Board procedures were considered: the first from Councilwoman Jane Bonner (C-Rocky Point) and another by Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld (D-East Setauket). Bonner's, to "correct an oversight" in a resolution she sponsored in August 2008, was meant to permit council members to once again respond to questions from residents who address the board during its public portion. Several awkward moments have occurred at Town Board meetings since August when residents posed a particular question to the board, often to a specific council member. The board had been prohibited from responding by its newly adopted rule. The revision Tuesday passed unanimously.

Fiore-Rosenfeld sought to amend board procedures to limit the ability of council members to introduce so-called late starters — resolutions not considered

'We shouldn't be voting on resolutions we've never seen.'

— COUNCILMAN
STEVE FIORE-ROSENFELD

at prior work sessions or made available in advance for consideration; post all resolutions online for the public's benefit prior to general meetings; and guarantee residents who have been waiting to address the board for five hours be permitted to speak, instead of being told to come back at a later date when the board reconvenes.

"We shouldn't be voting on resolutions we've never seen," Fiore-Rosenfeld told his colleagues. His bill would have required a "supermajority," five votes of the board, to permit the late addition of any measure to the agenda. Since the conservative majority has four votes, the bill would effectively require at least one Democrat to agree before a late starter could be considered. Regarding his move to permit residents to address the board no matter how late, Fiore-Rosenfeld said asking the public to come back another day was "inappropriate and wrong."

The resolution was defeated when only Democrats Fiore-Rosenfeld and Kepert voted in the affirmative.

In other actions, the Town Board appointed three new members and reappointed 11 current members to the town's Youth Board, including Chairman Paul Ciborowski of Shoreham, Tom Cascino of Stony Brook, Alan Gustavsson of East Setauket, Patricia Richter of Setauket and Pastor Scott Kraniak of Centereach. The board also appointed 10 members of its Black History Commission, including Chairwoman Roberta Owens of Coram, Vice-Chairman Devon Maurice Daniel of Shoreham and Marie Michel of Port Jefferson Station.

And in a move likely to please some local scofflaws, and potentially increase revenue for the town, Bonner sponsored a resolution providing for a 90-day partial amnesty for overdue parking tickets. The bill will permit the Parking Violations Bureau to "accept 50 percent of any outstanding balances as payment in full for the original citation." The amnesty period is from Feb. 15 to May 15, 2009.

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A genius film from India, 'Slumdog' is smashing

From the detail of the close-up to the grandeur of the sweeping expanse, "Slumdog Millionaire" is beautiful, breathtaking and heartbreaking.

Shot on locations in India, the incredible variety of images, patterns and shadows, at the same time familiar and foreign, are utterly compelling. It is genius filmmaking by directors Danny Boyle and Loveleen Tandan, not least of all because their efforts are put to use in order to reveal human dignity and beauty in the portrayal of the main characters Jamal (Dev Patel) and Latika (Freida Pinto).

The story centers on a teenaged Jamal, a "slumdog" or child of a Mumbai ghetto, who lands a spot on the Indian version of the TV game show "Who wants to be a millionaire." When Jamal surprises the show's conceited host with correct answers, the quizmaster (who bears an uncanny and unflattering resemblance to Dennis Miller), suspects a scam and has Jamal arrested. As the young man explains to police precisely which life lessons taught him each answer, we learn from those flashbacks the tragic story of a slumdog, one of countless ghetto children forced to eke out a dirty and dire existence on the fringes of a ruthless and indifferent world.

Scenes from Jamal's past are intercut

with his performance on the game show and his interrogation by police. The cops use that well known double team: bad cop and worse cop. But brutality at the hands of Mumbai's Finest does not make much of an impression on Jamal, who has survived the great hardships and ignominy that society piles upon its outcasts, and who no doubt only expects more of the same.

The film shows us life in the landfills, slums and shantytowns of the subcontinent. Despite those unbelievable conditions, there exists a positive energy among the slum kids that testifies to their humanity and resilience. That beaming ethos infects the entire film with an upbeat sense of outlandish hope.

As the adventures unfold, viewers are swept up in disparate facets of contemporary Indian life.

"Slumdog Millionaire" brings to the screen the rhythms of modern Mumbai thanks in great part to cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle and, film editor Chris Dickens and an original score by A.R. Rahman. In one particular scene, a haunting soundtrack reinforces a panorama of slums framed like a postcard from hell.

Eventually the tale focuses on a romance unlikely to succeed. Jamal's is the defiance of the outsider and the

suspicious nature of the kicked dog. But his features take on an angelic quality, as his love for Latika helps him transcend the baser instincts much in evidence around him. His close boyhood friend Salim has chosen another direction, repaying blood with blood and building his own material world on that crimson wash.

Latika is held up to the camera as an exemplar of sublime female beauty. Even the sadistic men who exploit her

'Slumdog Millionaire' is rated R, but American teens should not be deprived of the glimpses it provides of modern India.

can not detract from the ideal she embodies. We come to view her as Jamal does, so that rather than despoil her beauty, a vengefully inflicted knife scar serves rather to symbolize — like the track of a

tear — her unfulfilled love. "Slumdog Millionaire" is rated R, but American teens should not be deprived of the at times wondrous glimpses it provides of modern India.

In the dark

BY
DAVE WILLINGER

Child Abuse Prevention Services program presenters needed to train

Child Abuse Prevention Services, Long Island's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, is looking for adult volunteers to train on Wednesday, Feb. 11, to present their in-school Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention program to sixth through eighth grade students. It is one of the many CAPS' prevention-through-education programs that are offered to all Long Island schools at no cost thanks to underwriting by various sources.

In addition to the two-session workshop, CAPS offers grade-specific,

multi-media workshops on bully prevention, relational aggression, child abuse and neglect, Internet safety, and date rape prevention.

Qualified individuals are provided free professional training in the CAPS Roslyn office, to prepare to become volunteer presenters. Prospective volunteers must have their own transportation and be available during school hours.

Anyone interested in becoming a CAPS volunteer is urged to call 516-621-0552 or 631-289-3240, or email volunteeratcaps@optonline.net.



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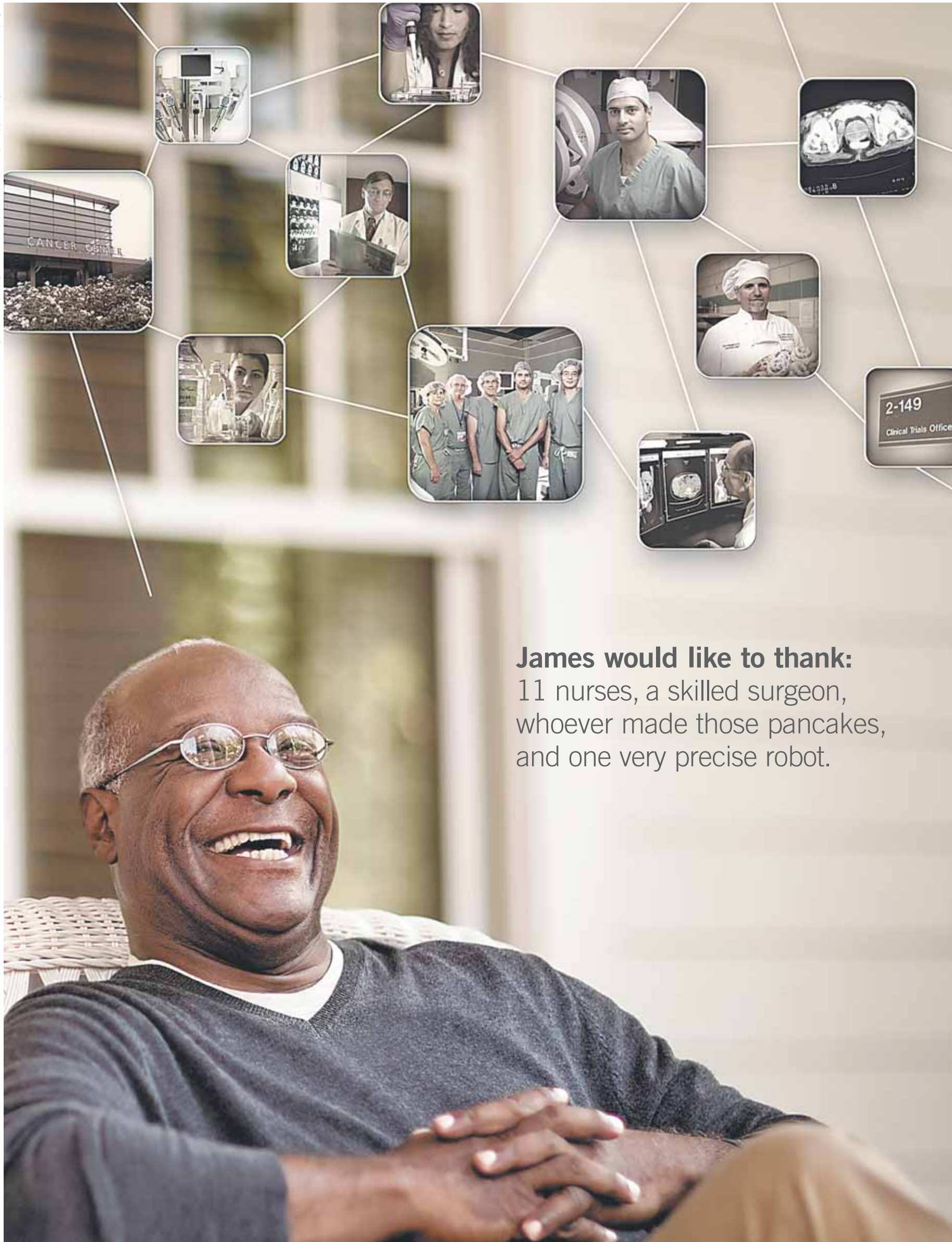
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Woking dog

Continued from page A1

shown the mattress where Krause said the dog sleeps. The temperature inside the barn felt warm compared to outside, and Krause said he keeps it at 66 degrees. There were bits of chewed paper scattered around the floor, and the dog's food and water bowls were filled.

Krause said Ben prefers chewing on paper to a large rawhide bone that was also in the barn.

Recently, some community members have expressed concern about Ben's new living conditions, however, according to Barbara Ray of Big Bend Farms in Millboro, Va., who trained Ben (and 600 other working dogs during a 25-year stint), said handlers are not required to keep working dogs in their homes. Some handlers actually prefer outdoor facilities for the furry creatures, she added, and assured a reporter that working dogs are indeed "acclimated to kennel life."

Those outdoor facilities are often equipped with entry ways to an indoor environment so they can "get in and out of the weather" and access food and water, she said.

While the storage barn is not outfitted with a pet entry, Krause said he visits Ben three times a day "to run him" and see that the dog has adequate food and water.

Even during off seasons when Canada geese are not prevalent — the pesky birds don't show up in large numbers

at Harbor Hills until October, according to Krause — Ray said "it's important to get the dog out ... to peruse the property." This allows the dogs to leave their scent, causing any birds to leave promptly because they're afraid the dog will "pop out" at any minute.

And while working dogs mostly shadow their handlers throughout the day, the animals are "allowed to have the freedom of being a dog" as long as the supervisor knows its whereabouts, Ray said.

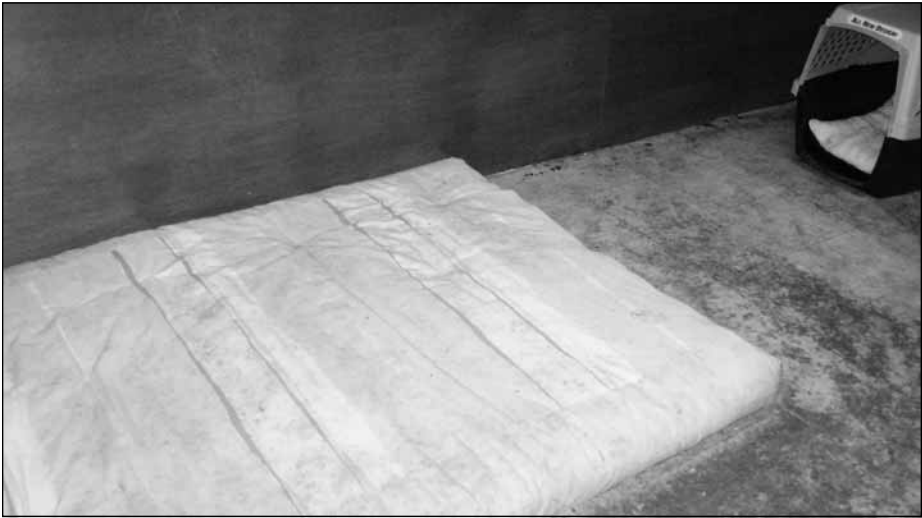
She also recommended feeding dogs a high-quality dry food twice a day to even out their energy levels because they are encouraged to get as much exercise outdoors as possible. In Big Bend Farms, she noted, the border collies are fed lamb and rice with a nutritional supplement, and water.

As for Ben, he eats Purina One's lamb and rice dog chow, Krause said.

"He's a beautiful dog," said Village Trustee Harry Faulknor, who often golfs at the Country Club. "He runs around with Jim Krause and makes everybody happy." Faulknor, who supported purchasing a working dog when the idea first surfaced early last year, said there are "no geese" when Ben's around. "He'll have his work cut out for him [this year]," Faulknor added, "but he's done a good job."

Golf Pro Bill Mackedon, in charge of golf operations at the country club, agreed with Faulknor and said, "We love Ben. He's a great friend of ours."

D. Willinger contributed to this story.



Photos by D. Willinger

Above: Ben is provided this mattress, for a bed, in the office of the storage barn. Top: Ben frolics with another dog on the icy links of the Port Jefferson Country Club at Harbor Hills.



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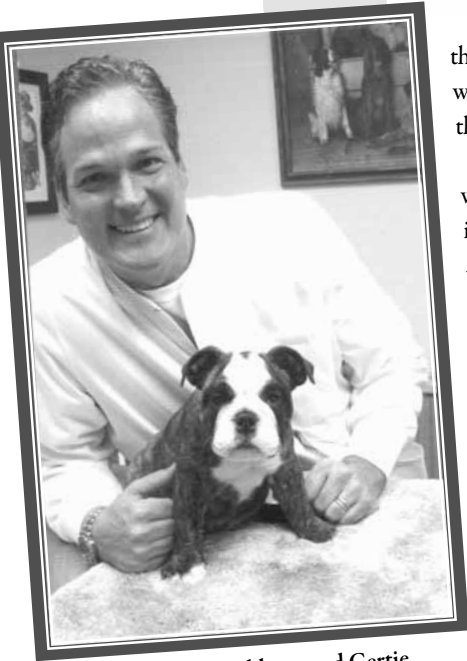
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Stop & Shop

Continued from page A7

Grocery manager Paul Brennan said employees were given about two-and-a-half weeks notice of the decision to close the store, but said they would not be out of work, as Stop & Shop offered all employees jobs at the chain's other Suffolk locations. Brennan, employed at the Port Jefferson Station store for four years, said some workers could lose their union tenure in the switch, but said Stop & Shop "did the right thing."

Store manager Katie Ford said the company "doesn't believe in laying off." As workers behind Ford in the deserted aisles prepared remaining inventory for shipping — most of the shelves seemed largely empty, but a reporter was barred from walking through the closed store — Ford said she was not authorized to speak to the press about why the store was closing.

Attempts to speak to a corporate representative of Stop & Shop were unsuccessful.

When store customer service employee Georgette Morales, of Selden, was asked Friday how she felt about her forced vacation, she laughed and said her vacation would be over Monday morning when she was to report to work at one of Stop & Shop's Setauket locations.

In a Friday press release, Edens & Avant described Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace as an Italian-themed grocer. "Much of Uncle Giuseppe's character is found in the atmosphere, from the store's design features to the arrangement of the food. Shoppers can expect to feel like they are in an authentic market in Italy with salamis hanging from the ceiling and Italian singers serenading them nearby. Fresh pasta, meat cut to order and bread baked and delivered daily from Arthur Avenue are samples of what the store will offer," the release stated.

Philip DelPrete, who owns Uncle Giuseppe's with brothers Carl and Joseph and operating partner Thomas Barresi, was also quoted in the release: "We are very excited about coming to Port Jefferson and look forward to welcoming the people of this town and the surrounding communities into our store."

Julie Culbreath, Edens & Avant communications director, told this newspaper that the 176,000-square-foot store would not be expanded. "We soon will commence the town approval process," Culbreath said in an email, "Once that is complete, Lind Design will be handling a complete renovation of the interior space with new design and equipment."

Other Uncle Giuseppe's locations are Smithtown, East Meadow and Port Washington.



Photos by D. Willinger

Above: Stop & Shop employees Marisa Starita, Paul Brennan and Georgette Morales gathered to say goodbye to coworkers after the final closing of the Port Plaza store. Top left: The 176,000-sq. ft. interior of the store will be redesigned and become home to an Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace, an Italian-themed grocer with other Long Island locations, including Smithtown.

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Children's museum

Continued from page A3

office of Sen. Ken Lavalle (R-Port Jefferson). That money may only be used for renovations.

In a compromise between the village and its nonprofit tenant, an additional \$25,000 in last year's village budget that had been earmarked for HVAC for the museum, will be held in reserve, should renovation costs run over the \$150,000. However Dell Aquila, whose efforts helped increase grant amounts by \$20,000, called the \$150,000 total "an ample budget" to complete the job.

But since the interior renovation of the chandlery must be complete before the museum can move in, Dell Aquila said the village will grant a six-month concession on rent, time for the bid process and the work itself to be completed. After that, the village would gradually ramp up the rent from 30 percent to its full amount over a period of months.

Members of the Children's Maritime Museum board spoke in support of the role of their nonprofit in the village.

"Cities failed that did not embrace culture and arts," museum board member Laurie Hubbard said.

Museum Board President Jackie Grennon Brooks told the trustees how "communities yearn to have a children's museum" as she urged them to look on the museum as a friend of the village and a member of the same team. "We're going to be providing a 'lighthouse' learning center," Grennon Brooks said,

using a term meaning current and best practices in education.

Phil Griffith, a member of the conservancy, a nonprofit that supports the Village Center and Harborfront Park, spoke of government's obligation to subsidize the arts and called the Children's Maritime Museum "one of the finest examples" of its kind where children can receive hands-on education in the area of maritime experience.

Dell Aquila agreed, saying the museum would "pay zero rent" if the village could afford it.

When Barbara Britt said other nonprofits in the village were not paying rent, with the exception of the Seawolf, Stony Brook University's research ship that docks at the Harborfront Park pier, Dell Aquila replied that "all nonprofits should be treated equally."

'Cities failed that did not embrace culture and arts.'

— LAURIE HUBBARD
MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER

Village Trustee Harry Faulknor thanked Dell Aquila for the work done in preparing the lease and said it is "a model we can use for other nonprofits."

Trustee Virginia Capon said the move into the chandlery would "increase the Children's Maritime Museum's profile," which would boost other local nonprofits as well.

Trustee Joe Erland said he was "worried" by the unusual length of the lease, his concern being the financial security of the village.

But Dell Aquila defended the agreement, telling the museum board members, "You need a strong document to protect yourselves," and the village has "to justify [it] to the residents."

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OPINION

Recalling a wonderful teacher, and a stupid old window pole

Over the recent holidays while visiting family in my hometown, my mother informed me that a favorite teacher, Father McMenamin, was back at my old high school and suggested I pay him a visit.

I had Father John J. McMenamin for freshman English many years ago at a college prep school run by the Oblates of St. Francis. In those days, McMenamin had a boyish, widemouthed smile and twinkling eyes, but make no mistake, he was the czar of his classroom, ever aware of what his students were up to.

Father McMenamin strived to use an elevated diction when speaking with us and was frequently imitated by boys in the halls and cafeteria. The easiest way to conjure him was to affect a British accent and say “obviously,” McMenamin’s catchword, with added stress on the first syllable.

Outside of class, we commonly referred to him as Jocko, a nickname whose provenance remains a mystery to me, but we never spoke it with derision.

As our English teacher, Father McMenamin introduced us to “A Tale of Two Cities,” “Romeo and Juliet” and other staples of the curriculum in that bygone era. And he was a stern taskmaster who dished out a heavy load of homework.

Then there was the window pole.

In mundane terms, it had a sturdy wooden handle about five feet long, of worn, varnished wood, with a heavy, iron hook bolted to one end. Its purpose was for use in opening or closing a top row of windows, but those were rarely if ever touched. Instead, that window pole became the prize we competed to win in the weekly spelling contests McMenamin would hold to make sure we were learning our vocabulary.

To answer correctly, a student had to stand, pronounce the word, spell it faultlessly and then repeat the word before sitting down. If any part of the drill were incorrect or omitted, the answer was wrong. Anguished whining would erupt at times from a boy or his rowmates if he had forgotten to repeat the properly spelled word before taking his seat. But there could be no appeal and that absolute lack of recourse, contrary to making McMenamin a mean, unfeeling adult, made him in our eyes a paragon of fair play and the rock we could all stand on. If one row voiced disappointment at being caught in a careless error, the rest of the class would roar with approval. To win that window pole, to earn the fleeting privilege of handing it down and then back up the row in triumph meant nothing short of striving for perfection.

McMenamin made each of us believe in that window pole as fervently as a loyal Roman soldier eyes his legion’s standard or as craven as a gambler rubs his rabbit’s foot.

An ancient-looking device, seemingly handed down from a previous generation, the window pole grew into a coveted talisman that conferred status and identity. It

was a chieftain’s staff symbolizing leadership of the tribe, an elaborate military pennant to boost morale among the troops and signal their rallying point.

That a simple implement could take on mythic proportions for a class of 14-year-olds, firing our imaginations with heroic dreams and impossible adventures, remains a tribute to Father McMenamin’s personality and innate teaching acumen.

The fun we experienced in that classroom came as a direct result of hard work, discipline and striving toward goals. Maybe that is why it is so memorable. And throughout it all, a humorous McMenamin remained in absolute control, stalking the aisles with a gimlet eye for all slackers.

I can still see Father McMenamin standing among the rows of desks, his left hand held aloft as if cradling poor Yorick’s very skull, while urging a boy to come up with a correct answer. “Obviously, Mr.

Hartung, you are concentrating, because I can see the vein in your forehead throbbing furiously.” Of course Hartung had been daydreaming and everyone, including Father McMenamin, knew it. But in his way, Jocko had been able to rouse the boy and overshadow his shaming with theatrics, so that it seemed but a mild admonishment, and we all enjoyed a laugh before resuming our concentration.

While I was in college, McMenamin was assigned to a parish in Munich, Germany, where he was learning the language. He once confided in me a gaffe he had made while celebrating the mass one Sunday in the Bavarian capital. There is a point in the liturgy where the priest commends to the Lord the offerings of the congregation, he told me. During

recitation of that part, old Jocko slightly mispronounced the German word for “fruitful,” effectively saying “terrible” instead.

McMenamin would never forget the sound of the collective gasp he heard coming from the pews that morning. After it was explained to him, he practiced the

proper pronunciation of the word, shall we say, religiously. That was another rule he taught his students, repetition is the mother of learning, and made us memorize the original Latin motto: Repetitio est mater studiorum.

Amid the family activities during the holidays last month, I forgot to drop in on my old teacher. Now word has reached me that Father McMenamin died Jan 19. He was 79.

I would have liked to have seen him again, thank him for being such a good teacher. It may not be a big regret, because I know Father McMenamin lives on in the lives of dedicated parishioners and especially in the hearts of thousands of former students, who long since have come to realize Jocko taught them much more than just English.

Still, it is a regret. Obviously.



for the armchair reader...

BY DAVE WILLINGER

That a simple implement could take on mythic proportions for a class of 14-year-olds remains a tribute to Father McMenamin’s personality and innate teaching acumen.

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- A. Ultimate gridiron action.

B. The commercials.
- C. Halftime show.

D. 2 words: Chicken wings!

Go Green

Continued from page A9

dress,” she said.

According to Costanzo, one of the greatest achievements to come out of Go Green so far has been the creation of an environmental club at Port Jefferson High School. “The kids pushed for it,” she said, and now those students are “taking leadership roles with the district behind them.” The high school environmental club members are addressing issues from what to do about newspaper and lunch waste to educating their peers on how to pack a green lunch, she said.

In the meantime, Go Green organizers hope to foster an even greater collaboration with all stakeholders in the village in 2009. Solo summed it up: “We want everyone to say, ‘Look what Port Jefferson did!’”

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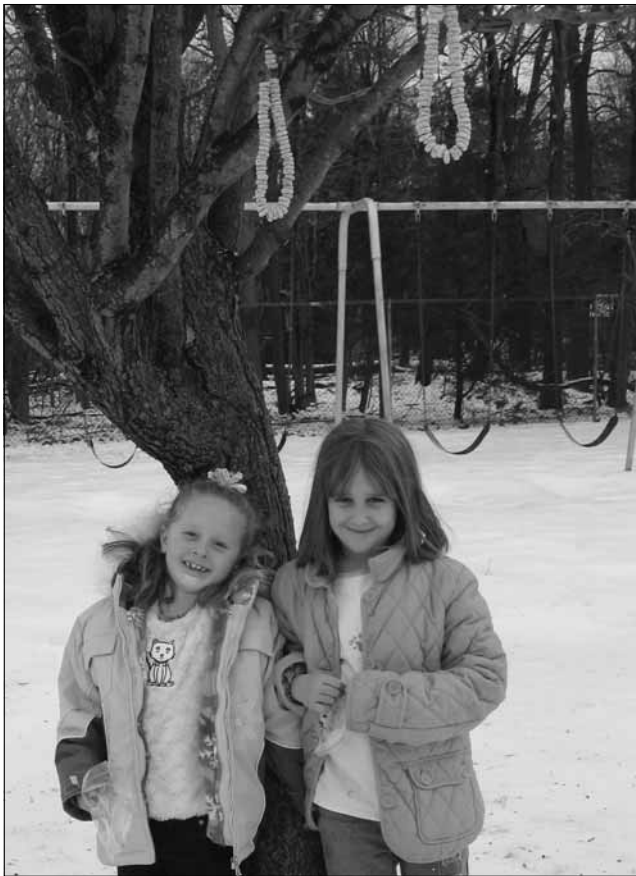
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PEOPLE



Zero the Hero visits Terryville students

At Comsewogue's Terryville Elementary School, students in Mrs. Weik's class have a high-flying friend. Every 10th day of school, they get a visit from Zero the Hero, a math superhero teddy bear. Zero made his first appearance on the 10th day of school, when he brought the students a special activity about the number 10.



Most recently, Zero brought students a special activity for Day 70, which also helped feed the birds. The students were each given 70 pieces of cereal and a pattern to follow. After they strung the cereal loops in the correct pattern, the yarn was tied so they could be hung on a tree branch for the birds.

Mrs. Weik said: "The children get so excited when Zero the Hero visits. He spends the day with us, and they take turns holding him during story time. They love to count the days we have been in school, because they want to know when Zero is coming back!"

Courtesy Alexandra Gordon

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Courtesy Elizabeth Sobel/Syntax Communication

ELV Academic Team wins first round of Long Island Challenge

Earl L. Vandermeulen High School's Academic Team members showcased their collective knowledge and secured a first-round win during Cablevision's Power to Learn competition called the Long Island Challenge. The five-member team, which included Sam Davis, Julia Monk (captain), Adam Pastrich, Michelle Witrock and Sungsu Lee, knocked Southold High School out of the competition with a score of 335 to 240. Cablevision aired the contest on Jan. 4. The students, coached by Academic Team adviser and Port Jefferson teacher Laurie McMillen, will now move to the second round of competition, which will be taped on March 13. Pictured from left, McMillen, Pastrich, Witrock, Monk, Davis and Lee are photographed with News 12 anchor and quiz host Scott Feldman.



Courtesy Legislator Losquadro's office

Port Jeff ambulance corps volunteers honored

Legislator Daniel P. Losquadro recently attended the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps annual Installation Dinner-Dance held at Majestic Gardens in Rocky Point. The occasion was especially festive because it was also the 50th anniversary of the ambulance corps. Pictured above, from left: Legislator Losquadro and members of the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Mike Mattera, Dawn Wallace, Jason Lazerus, Edie Tilley, Kathleen Johnson, Jim Crispino, Alayne McNamara and Joe Turchiano.

Obituaries

Raymond Trigony

Raymond C. Trigony — originally from Port Jefferson, a long-time resident of Chicago, Ill., also of Bridgeport, Conn., and a 20-year resident of Fort Myers, Fla. — died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 21. Ray was born on Oct. 10, 1922, in New York. He is survived by his dear sister, Maryse Chovel, of Manhattan, and his beloved brother Nicholas Trigony (Rosemary) of both Atlanta, Ga., and Naples, Fla. Brother George Trigony of Port Jefferson Station and sister Madeleine Noel of Bridgeport, Conn., preceded him in death. Raymond was a decorated veteran of World War II, proudly serving in the Army Air Corp's 494th Bomb Group (Kelley's Kobras) from 1942 to 1946, earning the rank of captain. He was a B-24 flight navigator and flew numerous missions throughout the Pacific theater. His tour of duty included the Marshall Islands, Guam and Hawaii. His flight crew with the 494th helped pacify Guam and Tinian, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. Raymond attended Syracuse University on a track-and-field and cross-country scholarship. After the war, he re-entered Syracuse University where he earned the honor of Collegiate All-American in both track and field and cross country for 1947 and 1948. Ray remained an avid runner throughout his life, most recently running along the sandy beaches of Sanibel Island in Southwest Florida. Ray graduated from Syracuse University in 1948 with a B.A. in business management. His professional career included long stints as a sales executive with such companies as Dun & Bradstreet, Riegel Textiles, Quality Mills and Blue Bell (Wrangler

Jeans). Raymond married the late Greta Ellen Gustafson on Sept. 7, 1953. Together Ray and Greta raised four children in the Chicago area: Gregg Ann Luft (Richard C.) of Chicago; Casey Lee Smith (David L.) of Long Grove, Ill.; Pamela Ann Hardcastle (Michael) of Cairns, Queensland, Australia; and Raymond "Chip" Trigony (Carla J.) of Vernon Hills, Ill. Raymond is also survived by his beloved grandchildren: Darren Richard Luft (fiancée Christine Roman) of New York; Allison Gregg Luft of Champaign-Urbana, Ill.; Jennifer Lee Smith of Long Grove, Ill.; Heather Jeanne Hardcastle and Harrison Robert Hardcastle of Cairns, Queensland, Australia; and Oliver Ray Trigony, Arlo Christopher Trigony and Greta Jeanette Trigony of Vernon Hills, Ill. Ray was a big fan of the Giants, baseball and football, and was a life-long athletic supporter of Syracuse University. He enjoyed a good cigar, a strong drink and conversation with his large array of friends and neighbors. His sense of humor was infectious and his passions included politics, sports and women. Ray was an outgoing person who enjoyed constantly meeting new friends and was never at a loss of words for anyone or anything. Everyone who ever met Ray was richer from the experience, he will be greatly missed. For further information, please contact: Friedrichs Funeral Home at 847-255-7800. A special tribute fund has been established in the name of Raymond C. Trigony at the Alzheimer's Assn.: www.alz.org.

Enes Dell'Aquila

Enes Dell'Aquila, 87, of Port Jef-

ferson Station, died Jan. 1. She was born Aug. 12, 1921, in New York City, the daughter of the late Ernest and Elvira Dell'Aquila. She was a retired claims examiner for Blue Shield Insurance. She is survived by her nephew, Ernest Dell'Aquila of Rocky Point and brother, Robert Dell'Aquila. She was preceded in death by brother Silvio and two nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church on Jan. 5, with interment following in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to the Bryant Funeral Home of Setauket. Please visit www.bryantfh.com to sign the online guestbook.

Gertrude Savage

Gertrude T. Savage, 78 years old of New Milford, Conn., formerly of Mount Sinai, died Jan. 6. "Trudie" was born Dec. 7, 1930, to William Samuel King and Lily Marion Tucker from Newfoundland. William and Lily emigrated to the United States in 1923, settling in Richmond Hill, Queens. In 1954, Trudie married Stanley James Savage, her constant companion and her best friend. After both retired in 1990, they enjoyed many activities with Mount Sinai Seniors and with members of the First United Methodist Church of Port Jefferson. And both of them volunteered thousands of hours in service to Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson. Stan died in 1997. Trudie was an active and devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Port Jefferson. She served in the committees of Finance, Evangelism, Worship and Outreach throughout the years. She

loved her church and has many dear friends there. A funeral service was held at Bryant Funeral Home, Jan. 11, 2009 with interment following in Maple Grove Cemetery in Queens. Arrangements were entrusted to the Bryant Funeral Home of Setauket. Please visit www.bryantfh.com to sign the online guestbook.

William Wakefield

William H. Wakefield, 92, of South Setauket, died on Jan. 12. He was born on May 16, 1916, in South Ozone Park, the son of the late Richard J. and Florence Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield started farming in Hicksville in 1943, then began farming in Mount Sinai with Charles Bergold. They formed the partnership of Bergold and Wakefield Farms and continued farming for over 30 years. With the loss of Bill Wakefield another chapter of Mount Sinai's rich agricultural history has come to a close. Mr. Wakefield is survived by his daughter, Hedwig (Andrew) Schelling of Calverton; sons, William (Barbara) and Richard (Amy) Wakefield; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor in 1999. A funeral service was held on Jan. 15, with the Rev. John Kepler officiating. Interment followed in Sea View Cemetery, Mount Sinai. Arrangements were entrusted to the Bryant Funeral Home of Setauket. Please visit www.bryantfh.com to sign the online guestbook.

Sports Authority... Footlocker

NO COMPETITION!!!

We beat their price/service/selection

You can buy sneakers anywhere, but there's only one place that you can get the "2nd Wind Experience". Only our staff of athletes have the knowledge to put you in the right shoe for your foot, your activity, your budget.

Schwab's

2nd WIND

"The Running Authority"



asics
GT 2130
For Men,
Women &
Children

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751-5534

1371 Rte. 25A, E. Setauket, NY (King Kullen Shopping Center)

Photo by Robert O'Rourke

Port Jefferson's Sean Swords finished in sixth place in the semifinals 55-meter hurdles event.

Legals

**NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT:
SUFFOLK COUNTY**
SUTTON FUNDING LLC.
Plaintiff(s)
vs. RODY MARMOL, et al.,
Defendant(s)
Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROS-
ICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.,
51 E. Bethpage Road, Plainview
New York 11803 516-741-2585
Pursuant to judgment of fore-
closure and sale entered herein
on or about December 15, 2008,
I will sell at Public Auction to the
highest bidder at BROOKHAVEN
TOWN HALL, 1 INDEPENDENCE
HALL, FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738.
On February 10, 2009 at 10:30 AM
Premises known as 52 Nadine
Lane, Port Jefferson, NY 11776
ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE,
OR PARCEL OF LAND, with the
buildings and improvements
thereon erected, situate, ly-
ing and being in the Town of
Brookhaven, County of Suffolk
and State of New York, and de-
signed as Lot Number 43 on a
certain map entitled, "Map of
Chatham Park" situated at Ter-
ryville and filed in the Office of
the Clerk of the County of Suf-
folk on January 14, 1965 as Map
Number 4248.
District: 0200 Section: 227.00
Block: 08.00 Lot: 019.000
As more particularly described
in the judgment of foreclosure
and sale.
Sold subject to all of the terms
and conditions contained in said
judgment and terms of sale.
Approximate amount of judg-
ment \$459,056.92 plus interest
and costs.
INDEX NO. 6934/08
ANNETTE EADERESTO, Esq.,
REFEREE

18 1/8 4x ptr

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF
SUFFOLK - EVERHOME MORT-
GAGE COMPANY , Plaintiff,
AGAINST EUGENE A. JOHANN,
ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant
to a judgment of foreclosure
and sale duly dated 8/26/2008,
I, the undersigned Referee
will sell at public auction at
the Front Steps of Brookhaven
Town Hall, One Independence
Hill, Farmingville, County of Suf-
folk, New York, on 2/13/2009 at
10:00 AM, premises known as
33 ROSEWOOD ROAD, ROCKY
POINT, NY 11778. All that cer-
tain plot piece or parcel of land,
with the buildings and improve-
ments thereon erected, situate,
lying and being in the Town of
BROOKHAVEN, County of Suf-
folk and State of New York,
Section, Block and Lot: 55.00-
2-56.001. Approximate amount
of judgment \$234,126.54 plus
interest and costs. Premises
will be sold subject to provi-
sions of filed Judgment Index
#20760/07. James P. McCarrick,
Esq., Referee,
Steven J. Baum PC, Attorneys
for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 1291, Buf-
falo, NY 14240-1291 Dated:
1/9/2009

29 1/15 4x ptr

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF
SUFFOLK - THE BANK OF NEW
YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A.
AS TRUSTEE C/O GMAC MORT-
GAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
AGAINST ADIAN MOWATT, ET
AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to
a judgment of foreclosure and
sale duly dated 11/1/2007, I, the
undersigned Referee will sell
at public auction at the Front
Steps of Brookhaven Town Hall,
One Independence Hill, Farm-
ingville, County of Suffolk, New
York, on 2/13/2009 at 3:00 PM,
premises known as 2000 RACE
AVENUE, MEDFORD, NY 11763.
All that certain plot piece or par-
cel of land, with the buildings
and improvements thereon
erected, situate, lying and be-
ing in the Town of Brookhaven,
County of Suffolk and State of
New York, Section, Block and
Lot: 659.00-06.00-001.000. Ap-
proximate amount of judgment
\$315,824.93 plus interest and
costs. Premises will be sold sub-
ject to provisions of filed Judg-
ment Index #2012/07. Susan A.
Denatale, Esq., Referee,
Steven J. Baum PC, Attorneys
for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 1291, Buf-
falo, NY 14240-1291 Dated:
1/13/2009

34 1/22 4x ptr

PUBLIC NOTICE

AS PER THE BROOKHAVEN
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.
1-09 ALL TOWN BOARD MEET-
INGS WILL COMMENCE
AT **5:00 PM**

THE BROOKHAVEN TOWN
BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE
MONTH OF FEBRUARY WILL BE
HELD ON

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2009
AT **5:00 PM**

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2009
AT **5:00 PM**

ONE INDEPENDENCE HILL,
2ND FLOOR
FARMINGVILLE, NY

(THE WORK SESSION FOR THE
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 TOWN
BOARD MEETING WILL BE
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2009
AT 11:00 AM)

(THE WORK SESSION FOR THE
FEBRUARY 26, 2009 TOWN
BOARD MEETING WILL BE TUES-
DAY FEBRUARY 24, 2009 AT
11:00 AM)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW
PUBLIC WELCOME AT ALL MEET-
INGS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- WWW.BROOKHAVEN.ORG
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
(631) 451-TOWN

PAMELA J. BETHEIL
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

52 1/29 1x ptr,vth

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids will be received, publicly
opened and read aloud at 11:00
a.m. in the Division of Purchasing
of the Town of Brookhaven, One
Independence Hill, Third Floor
Farmingville, NY 11738, for the
following item(s) on the date
indicated:

PURCHASE 6-WHEEL DUMP
TRUCK FRAME AND CHASSIS---
-----FEBRUARY 6, 2009
ARTICULATING WHEEL LOADER
WITH 7.5CY BUCKET REBID-----
-----FEBRUARY 9, 2009
ARTICULATING WHEEL LOADER
WITH 5.0 CY BUCKET-----
-----FEBRUARY 9, 2009
PORT A LAVS-----
-----FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Specifications for the above-re-
ferenced bids will be available
beginning January 29, 2009
at the Division of Purchasing
on any business day, Monday
through Friday, between the
hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.
**ONLY THOSE VENDORS OUT OF
THE SUFFOLK AREA WILL BE
MAILED BIDS UPON REQUEST.**

The Town of Brookhaven reser-
ves the right to reject and declar-
e invalid any or all bids and to
waive any informalities or irre-
gularities in the proposals recei-
ved, all in the best interests of
the Town. The Town of Brook-
haven welcomes and encoura-
ges minorities and women-ow-
ned businesses to participate in
the bidding process.

Further information can be ob-
tained by calling (631) 451-6252

Anthony T. DeMaio
Director of Purchasing
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

55 1/29 1x ptr

**MILLER PLACE FIRE DISTRICT
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
OF RESOLUTION
SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE
REFERENDUM # 09-01**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, tha-
the Board of Fire Commission-
ers of the Miller Place Fire Dis-
trict, in the Town of Brookhaven
Suffolk County, New York, at a
meeting thereof, held on the
21st day of January, 2009, duly
adopted, subject to permissive
referendum, a Resolution, ar-
abstract of which is as follows:

The Resolution authorizes the
Purchase of Additional Equip-
ment for the Chief's and Dis-
trict's Vehicles at an estimate
total cost of \$20,000.00 and the
expenditure for such purpose
of not more than \$20,000.00
from monies now in the capita-
reserve fund of the Miller Place
Fire District heretofore estab-
lished.

Dated: Miller Place, New York
January 26, 2009

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
MILLER PLACE FIRE DISTRICT IN
THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN
SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

JANET STAUFER,
DISTRICT SECRETARY

56 1/29 1x vbr

Port Jeff track

Continued from page A25

track team also struggled a bit. The girls
finished in seventh place with a total of
23 points, well behind overall winner
Mount Sinai, which collected 134 total
points in a dominating performance.
Shoreham-Wading River was a distant
second with 94 points.

Senior Liz Garland came in fifth place
in the 55-meter dash with a time of 8.08.
Garland also took sixth place in the 300-
meter dash with a time of 45.38.

Freshman Andrea Fowara won the
55-meter hurdles with a time of 10.07.
Junior Nancy Gallagher took fifth place
in the shot put with a throw of 29-03.

In the long jump, freshman Katha-
rina Ross came in fifth place with a leap
of 14-07.75. Junior Amber Bruckner
finished in sixth place in the high jump
with a score of 4-06.

All three of Port Jefferson's relay teams
had solid finishes. The 4x400 team with
a time of 4:39.86 and the 4x200 team
with a time of 2:00.83 both came in fifth
place. The 4x800-meter team finished in
sixth place finish at 11:48.91.

The teams will compete next in the
small school championships this week-
end at Suffolk Community College in
Brentwood.

Warrior bowling

Continued from page A25

struggled. Still, teams like Longwood
(8-3), Middle Country (11-1) and East Is-
lip (11-0) should be considered favorites
in this year's tourney and that suits the
Warriors just fine.

"I don't think that we've been taken all
that seriously," said Sorenson. "But we can
compete with every one of them. Making it
to the playoffs is a great thing and I'd love
to see them win it but at the same time I
don't want to take the fun out of it either."

Following the conclusion of their regu-
lar season, the Warriors will compete in
the division tournament on Feb. 3 at Bay
Shore Bowl before heading into the county
tournament at Sayville Bowl on Feb. 7.

Warrior track

Continued from page A25

came in seventh place. The 4x200 fin-
ished in 2:02.74 and the 4x800 relay
clocked in at 11:34.64.

The Comsewogue boys' team, on
the other hand, finished the League IV
meet in seventh place with 19 points.
Kings Park dominated the event with
145.50 points, followed by a very dis-
tant second place tie of Harborfields
and Huntington, both of which fin-
ished with 64 points. East Hampton
was fourth (39) then Miller Place (36)
and Rocky Point (20).

Comsewogue's Vincent Zietsman won
the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.43. In
the 300-meter dash, Adam Klein finished
in sixth place, clocking in at 40.67.

Thomas Ferrari came in fifth place in
the shot put with a throw of 38-05.00.
His teammate James Taddeo finished
not too far behind him in seventh, scor-
ing 38-00.50. In the long jump, Thomas
Cleary took sixth place honors with a
leap of 18-11.00.

The 4x400 team came in sixth place
(4:18.83) and the 4x200 finished in
fourth place with a time of 1:48.47.

SPORTS

Royals compete in leagues

TRACK

BY ROBERT LEUNER
katsports@tbrnewspapers.com

The Port Jefferson Royals boys' winter track team is rebuilding this year. Last year the Royals were one of the better small schools competing in Suffolk County. This year they finished in fifth place in the League V championship meet held at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood.

The Royals finished with a total of 22 points, some 115 points behind league winner Amityville. Shoreham-Wading River was second with 131 points followed by John Glenn in third with 57.

"We have a lot of young guys this year," said Port Jefferson head coach Rod Cawley. "It went about as I expected. We could have had a little better finish in some of the events but we'll just have to wait until they mature physically."

Junior Kevin Sullivan paced the Royals. Sullivan took second in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:45.75. Sullivan also finished sixth in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:00.40.

Sophomore Ryan Flanagan took fifth place honors in the 600-meter run with a time of 1:29.67. Sophomore Eli Cates was sixth in the shot put with a toss of 40-03.25.

In the high jump, junior Gavin Clarke placed fourth, clearing 5-06. Two Royals relay teams finished in the scoring column. The 4x800-meter team came in fifth place with a time of 9:45.28 and the 4x400 relay squad took fourth place with a time of 4:02.06.

Meanwhile, the Port Jefferson girls' *Continued on page A24*



Photo by Josh Kalish

Port Jefferson sophomore Eli Cates placed sixth in the shot put with a score of 40-03.25 at the League V championship meet, held this past weekend.

Warriors surprise teams, dominate in league

BY ROBERT LEUNER
katsports@tbrnewspapers.com

The Comsewogue boys' bowling team ended a two-year playoff drought when they qualified for postseason earlier this month. Now they are on the cusp of clinching a league championship. The Warriors have already defeated Islip, 26-7, and Sayville, 31-2, last week, so there is ample reason why Comsewogue should feel confident.

"This year has been so amazing," said Warriors head coach Eric Sorenson. "The guys have really come together and are driven to succeed."

The Warriors are presently 9-2, one game ahead of second place Islip. Their losses came on Dec. 2, opening day of the season, when Bellport (7-4) beat them 22-11 and more recently on Jan. 27 against Islip, 2-1. Comsewogue had a

BOYS' BOWLING

nine consecutive game winning streak going until this past Tuesday's loss to Islip.

"We're still a very young team," said Sorenson. "We have only three seniors so I think we'll be all right for the next few years."

The Warriors are led by senior Tom Wooten and junior Anthony Neste. Heading into Tuesday evening's match against Islip, Neste boasted an average of 227.93, fourth best in Suffolk County while Wooten had compiled a nifty 212.80 average. The Warriors also have the highest team pin average in their league at 1,008.37 while amassing an astounding 201.67 per person average, fourth best in Suffolk County. That, according to the statistics, means that each one of the Warriors' starting five bowls over 200 each game.

"We've really come together as bowlers," Sorenson said. "I think that we can bowl with the best of them."

Even if the Warriors win the league title they head into the Suffolk County tournament as an obvious underdog simply because no one has expected this kind of superior bowling from a team who over the past few seasons had *Continued on page A24*

'This year has been so amazing. The guys have really come together and are driven to succeed.'

— COMSEWOGUE HEAD COACH ERIC SORENSON

Warriors take on League IV teams

TRACK

The Comsewogue girls' track team finished the League IV championship meet, held this past weekend, in sixth place with 27 points. Sayville won the title with 118 points, followed by Kings Park (96), Islip (66), Miller Place (65) and Hauppauge (44).

Erin O'Shea led the Warriors in the league meet. She finished the 1,000-meter run and the 1,500 meters in second place. In the 1,000 meter, she clocked in at 3:12.01 and in the 1,500, she finished in 5:10.46.

In the 600-meter run, Nicole Aprea finished in third place in 1:46.37. Noelle Deutsch competed in the 1,500-meter race/walk, finishing in sixth with a time of 8:50.11.

Comsewogue's 4x400-meter relay team came in fourth place at 4:41.61. Their 4x200 and 4x800 *Continued on page A24*

EDITORIAL

Trim the fat

As the 21st century opens, government has taken meaningful, if far from complete, steps to eliminate toxins in our air, water and earth. We're glad to see them tackle our food now.

Bravo to Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-North Babylon) for introducing a bill to ban use of trans fats in county food establishments, following the example set by New York City, California and a growing number of localities. If the measure does not pass swiftly into law with a minimum of debate, county lawmakers should double-check their science.

That's because trans fats — lipids created by artificially hardening vegetable oils for use in baked goods or fried foods — are poison, plain and simple. Unlike other foodstuffs hotly debated in the nutrition community in recent years — saturated fat, complex carbohydrates, even high fructose corn syrup — trans fats have no conceivable upside. These man-made fats are foreign to the human body, which is poorly adapted to handle them. As a result, their consumption has been linked to increased risk of heart disease, insulin resistance, obesity and cancer.

Some studies show consumption of just 40 calories of trans fat — or 4.5 grams — a day can boost the risk of a heart attack by 23 percent, and a fast-food meal of fried chicken strips and French fries can easily contain more than 100 calories of trans fat, D'Amaro said.

Some may interpret this as one more unwelcome intrusion into personal preference by a healthier-than-thou nanny state. But a trans-fat ban is not analogous to a vice tax. Rather, it more closely parallels the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to ensure businesses do not contaminate the drinking water of nearby residents with trichloroethylene or other toxins. Who among us would demand the choice over whether poison comes out of our taps?

It's possible that the market would eliminate trans fat use on its own. Some major fast-food chains, such as Burger King and Wendy's, forced to ditch the fats in some localities and sensing that their number is only likely to grow, have chosen to phase out their use.

But many restaurants have yet to follow their lead, and are unlikely to do so soon of their own accord, as trans fats are cheaper and better preservatives compared to most natural animal or plant lipids. The county would be doing Suffolk consumers a favor by speeding the retreat from trans fats, even residents who already go out of their way to avoid the stuff.

Why? Because in America today, the less wealthy the eater, the more likely he is to rely on low-cost fast food or packaged snacks laden with trans fat. The same demographic, unfortunately, is also more likely to lack health insurance or rely on state-subsidized coverage like Medicaid. So, preventing some disease with a virtually cost-free trans-fat ban would, in addition to the benefit of avoiding human suffering, cut the potential medical expenses that taxpayers would have to bear.

The Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee is set to consider the trans-fat ban today, so the bill could be scheduled for a general vote as early as next Tuesday. Tell your county representative to send trans fats packing.

Letters ...

We welcome your letters. They should be no longer than 400 words and may be edited for length, libel, style and good taste. We do not publish anonymous letters. Please include a phone number for confirmation. Email letters to dave_w@tbrnewspapers.com or mail them to The Port Times Record, PO Box 707, Setauket, NY 11733.

OPINION

Port Jeff needs a plan, not a moratorium

OPEN LETTER TO THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT JEFFERSON:

I am an architect, urban designer, have a business and am a resident in Port Jefferson.

I very strongly believe in comprehensive plans. I and my students have been involved with several of the Hamlet Studies conducted by Dr. Lee Koppelman for the Town of Brookhaven. The village has had four plans since 1965 and a 2010 report in 2002. There is no doubt that there should be an update of this work. I have met with Dr. Koppelman to discuss this and he has said it has always been Suffolk County's position, that during a master plan process, a moratorium is necessary if there is the possibility that development might occur that is related to the issues being studied. He also told me and wrote to the mayor and trustees that all projects that are in the planning process should be exempt from a moratorium.

It seems to me that very few of the 24 factors on the Port Jeff website could be addressed in a comprehensive plan and that many have been started and could be completed on their own. None suggest that there is an emergency.

1. Yes let's update the master plans but it would be wise to update these by a careful and deliberate process, not under the time constraints of a moratorium.

2. The committee that I was on for the marine waterfront zoning had competed the study and this could be resolved independently and quickly.

3. The Lawrence Aviation plume is already in the hands of the EPA and they are working on a 30 year plan.

4, 6. The Heritage Inn, Island Boat, Beach Street, High Street cluster, Liberty cluster, Texaco Avenue, are all in the planning process and would be exempt from a moratorium according to Dr. Koppelman.

5, 7, 8. The steep slope code has been studied since the 1987 Master Plan and could be enacted very quickly on its own. Open space studies are important but not an emergency. Historic building and/or district studies are important but should be a study on its own with the proper expertise.

9. The RFP for an 8 month study of Upper Port could also be achieved on its own.

10. There is an infrastructure study ready to be enacted and could be expanded if necessary.

11, 16, 17, 18. Code revisions, zoning map changes, planning/building procedures, staffing, space needs, update fee schedules, could be done by the Zoning

Board, Planning Board, a village planner and the Building Department. Some could be part of a comprehensive plan but none are an emergency.

12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23.

Considering ratables and assessments, inspect and assess apartments, shared services impact and cost analysis, assess LIPA re-powering, homeland security issues, lawsuits, district attorney and Special Council are not master plan issues.

20. Sidewalks and parking are appropriate comprehensive plan items but are not emergencies.

24. Workforce housing issues should be studied by a village planner.

I believe that my comments to the above 24 points demonstrate that there is no emergency and that a comprehensive plan is a good idea that can proceed without a moratorium.

I do not believe that a good and thorough master plan could be achieved and adopted in 12 months. I think that it would be:

Analyze previous plans and public discussion to develop a program for a master plan — 4 months.

Draft an RFP articulating everything to be studied — need a planner — 2 months

RFP submission, selection and contract — 2 months

Develop the plan with public presentations, discussions, revisions — 8-12 months

Public hearings and adoption — 1 month

Implementation of critical elements — ?

There is also the question of what would the master plan and the master plan process cost? In this time of austerity, and given that there does not seem to be an emergency, can we afford to do it now?

There are a number of issues not mentioned by the trustees, that I believe should be part of a comprehensive plan:

•Traffic and parking study and plan (updating those in past plans).

•A public harborfront in place

of the Brookhaven Parking lot?

•Study smart growth and green urbanism such as mixed-use zoning, transit-oriented development, inter-modal (train, bus, shuttle, ferry) transportation coordination.

•Update the previous plans using bottom-up public participation rather than outmoded top-down methods.

Michael Schwarting
Port Jefferson

We are not all online

TO THE EDITOR:

I was stunned when I received my copy of The Port Times Record today and noted a front-page photo of a fire that apparently took place at the convent of the Daughters of Wisdom on the grounds of St. Charles' Hospital last Sunday. I then became outraged that no story was included, but readers were referred to a website. It may be amazing to you, but I do not own a computer and this is one reason why I still have a subscription to various newspapers, including The Port Times Record.

As it happened I had been unsuccessfully attempting to contact one of the sisters, and now know why I couldn't get in touch. If this is the way you will be handling stories in the future, I see no reason to continue my subscription. Your lack of consideration and respect for women who have dedicated their lives to helping us, as well as being invaluable to St. Charles Hospital astonishes me. You owe the Daughters of Wisdom and all of us who care about them an apology.

Valerie Schroeder
Port Jefferson

Editor's note: We do apologize, and we trust everyone saw a follow-up story about the brave guards who helped save those sisters. It appeared last week on page A5 and included the account of the fire.

Heard of Village Voices?

Want to sound off but too time-pressed or shy to write a letter to the editor?*

Get a conversation going on our "Village Voices" readers blog at www.northshoreoflongisland.com

Read what your neighbors are saying:

"Would Uncle Guiseppe's even contemplate opening ... if a year long moratorium [was] in place? NO.

Village officials should put [the moratorium] to a vote by the residents of Port Jefferson."

— M-W Zone yes, everywhere? no, Jan. 28

*Blog posters may use "handles" or pseudonyms.

The opinions of columnists and letter writers are their own. They do not speak for the newspaper.

How the mighty may fall: an autopsy

Back in 1998, I was working as a reporter at Bloomberg News, where any story at any hour could and did require my complete and immediate attention. In April, I had received a “tip” from an anonymous source that Citicorp was going to announce a huge merger on Monday. I called every source I could think of, pulled every trick out of my reporter’s repertoire, made every personal and professional appeal to every imaginable person who might tell me something to break this big story.

Back then, bankers ascribed to their unshakable belief that bigger was better. They’d serve more of every customer’s need in more places than anyone else. The market was buzzing every day with talk of who would partner up with whom and what that might mean for the remaining players. Bankers described their business as a barbell: there would be a concentration of enormous strong banks on one side and a collection of tiny banks on the other. Everything in between would struggle to survive and compete — or so the thinking went.

After a weekend of looking over every shoulder and calling in every favor I could imagine, I got nowhere. Almost getting a story wouldn’t do much for me. I barely slept that night, anticipating that 4 am call from an angry editor who read a story someplace else about the merger and demanded I find someone as quickly as possible who could verify that story. Even though that call never came, I arrived at my desk at 6 am.

My editor, a driven, intense, high energy man whose whereabouts in the newsroom were always known from his booming voice and the shoes he clomped around in as if he were crushing cockroaches, was the only other person in the newsroom just as the sun started to pour in from over the 59th Street bridge.

I stared at the public relations newswire, ready to write whatever story came in that morning. I was so concerned about missing the big moment that I barely took my eyes off the screen to talk with my editor.

Would Citicorp, run by the intellectual, deliberate and stately John Reed, merge with a foreign bank? Would Reed dare to merge with, say, a NationsBank, a giant bank that had gone from the fourth largest bank in North Carolina to one of the largest in the nation through the deal making of former marine Hugh McColl?

And then it hit. One of the strangest press releases I’d ever seen. Citicorp was merging with Travelers Group. The value of the deal was \$70 billion.

Sanford “Sandy” Weill ran Travelers. Weill was the antithesis of John Reed. The son of Polish immigrants, Weill shot from the hip, grew up in Brooklyn, had a hearty

appetite for a good deal and a good dessert, and was the ultimate charmer on Wall Street. He was a hero for turning a collection of financial services businesses into a profit-making machine. He had convinced Reed to join forces with him. But even that wasn’t the most shocking part of this merger. It was something far more basic.

“Excuse me?” I asked my editor, as he raced through the press release to send out as many headlines as he could about a merger heralding a brand new day in global finance.

“WHAT?” he yelled.
“Isn’t this illegal?”

Without taking his eyes off his screen, he nodded his head. He directed me

back to my seat, where I needed to turn this press release into a story. I had 15 minutes to convert those headlines into a story, while adding some background about Citicorp, Travelers, John Reed, Sandy Weill and the merger trends in

banking. As the day progressed, we’d find experts — lawyers, doctors, Indian chiefs — who could all weigh in on whether the deal was legal and could happen. Even in the short press release, Weill said he had contacted the Clinton administration the night before. The White House was one of the few places I hadn’t called to try to break the story. Silly me!

Citigroup, as Reed and Weill’s married companies would be called, had some time to repeal the Depression-Era laws called Glass-Steagall that had separated commercial and investment banking. If they didn’t change the laws, the combined company would have to sell some of its businesses.

The press conference that day revealed just how different these two financial leaders were. Weill offered amusing sound bites and off the cuff witticisms straight from his self-made Brooklyn pedigree, while Reed considered his answers, often describing what he hoped the merger would achieve.

The stock market, which was in great shape in 1998, fell in love with the deal and the sales pitch. Citicorp shares surged \$35.625, or 25 percent, to help the Dow to its first close above 9,000.

Numerous print and TV journalists — caught up in the euphoria of this marriage — started their “exclusive” interviews with Sandy Weill and John Reed that day by congratulating them on the merger. Strange as it seems now, at the time, it was perfectly normal. It was like the sports reporters who congratulate the manager of a team that had won a big game. How could they not have felt and noticed the excitement? The stock market loved the deal and the reporters often used the market’s reaction as a scorecard. On that day, Weill, Reed and anyone who had money invested

in either of their companies were winners. Investors believed in the promise of the merger.

Soon after the companies combined, Weill frequently told anyone who would listen that the merger was working and that its record profits soon after the marriage were proof of that. Reed cautioned that the big numbers came from putting together two big companies. He continued to suggest that everyone had to wait to see how it all went. He was, to use a favorite phrase from the corporate world, “cautiously optimistic.”

Citigroup did manage to get Glass-Steagall repealed and didn’t have to sell big businesses to make the deal happen.

In less than two years, Weill muscled Reed out of the co-CEO role, standing alone as the seller of his grand vision for a bigger, better, stronger, faster bank that could and would do anything but make you eggs over easy for breakfast.

The big, bad boy that was Citigroup became big and bad. There were the ugly email exchanges between Sandy Weill and the poster boy for research conflicts of interest, former telecom analyst Jack Grubman.

An unseemly set of emails showed Weill urging Grubman to take another look at his rating on AT&T stock — a company whose board Weill sat on. There was also a “donation” Citigroup made to the 92nd Street Y just as Grubman’s children were applying for kindergarten.

Crusading Attorney General Eliot Spitzer was determined to do whatever it took to save the small investor from the underhanded dealings and dealers on Wall Street. He would protect Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public even if it meant he’d have to ride the publicity he generated to the governor’s mansion.

With enough righteous indignation to fill the new and old Shea and Yankee stadiums, Spitzer laid out (oops, poor choice of words) exactly how analysts were being corrupted by their ties to investing banking. The investment bankers didn’t want any of their free-spirited analysts to say bad things about companies that were paying them millions of dollars to sell stocks and bonds to the public.

Ironically, when federal regulators revealed Spitzer’s own emails to a prostitution ring, his career came crashing down. But that’s a rise and fall story for a different day.

Sensing that the world was turning on him and seeing one bad headline after another tied to his name, Weill endorsed the company’s top lawyer, Charles Prince, as the new CEO. In theory, Prince could handle any legal challenges the bank faced

Your turn



BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

around the world, maneuvering around an already heavily regulated industry that threatened to require almost as many people watching and listening to how one side of the house spoke to the other as it did people trying to make money.

From day one, Prince seemed a good candidate to handle the regulators, but perhaps a questionable one to make the best business decisions for the bank. After all, he hadn’t spent all that much time running a business.

With 20/20 hindsight, it’s easy to see how Prince and all the other top CEOs who made millions stumbled badly when the complicated investments they held that were somehow tied to home prices around the country finally did the unthinkable and fell.

Even the regulators didn’t see it coming, or they would have raised more red flags.

And now, 10 years after that day that marked the beginning of a new era in banking, Citigroup is about to try to break up into two large pieces — even without any new laws restricting its business.

Is there a lesson in all this? I’m sure there are a lot of them. How about the conventional

wisdom — and back then, it was bigger is better — can be anything but wise. Or, how about, even giants — who seem to have an “in” with everyone in power — can fall. When they do, they fall farther and harder than their smaller counterparts.

More than a decade later, Sandy Weill is gone from Citigroup and so are many of the billions made on that first day. As of Jan. 16, Citigroup was worth \$20 billion, well below its market cap of \$140 billion in April 1998. Many of the millions Weill made and then reinvested in the bank have also disappeared. And John Reed no longer has to wait and see if Citigroup lived up to its promise: it didn’t.

Daniel Dunaief was a business reporter for over 14 years. He worked at the New York Daily News, Bloomberg News and the American Banker. He is currently trying his hand as a book author.

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