

EDITORIAL

Donations aplenty

It's fair to say 2020 has left many of our neighbors without.

Without food, clothes, money to pay the bills and so on. Aside from deaths related to COVID-19, the pandemic has caused job loss, lower income and uncertainty.

Thankfully, our local organizations like the Islip Rotary have helped combat food-insecurity this year; the Islip-based Adopt-A-Child and Legis. Tom Cilmi are hosting toy drives and as well.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Islip Rotary members have continued to prepare donations and help out this holiday season. This Thanksgiving, the Rotary donated meals, pantry items and toiletries to 30 families residing within Islip, Central Islip and East Islip school districts. The Monday before the holiday, Rotary members were spotted outside the Stop & Shop on Sunrise Highway in East Islip hauling roughly 30 turkeys, dairy items, canned goods and more into their trucks and SUVs, and last weekend they were out collecting for the Salvation Army.

Also, the Village of Brightwaters Business Association teamed up with the First Baptist Church in Bay Shore this past weekend with a coat drive for kids. Community members were encouraged to donate new and gently used winter coats. Anyone in need should contact the church at 631-665-8863.

But one of our favorite area donation drives is East Islip residents Michael Kenny, Theresa Kleine and Brittany Chappa's annual Adopt-A-Child campaign, now in its eighth year. This year it will take place on Dec. 20 with a dropbox at Maxwell's on Main Street in Islip. The goal is to ensure that each child at Brookside Multicare Nursing Center has a gift this holiday season.

Some of the children at Brookside – ages 2 to 22 – have genetic abnormalities, gunshot wounds, rare genetic diseases and other illnesses. Many are immobile and some are in hospice care. Let's make their holiday extra special and take away the uncertainty of one thing this year: gifts under the tree.



OP ED

We want to hear from you

BY SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE PRESIDING OFFICER ROB CALARCO

The very essence of government is serving the public, and one of the best ways to do that – these days especially – is by connecting digitally. Video conferencing, livestreaming, websites and social media allow us as government officials to meet you – our constituents – wherever you are, whether that be in the comfort of your own home or on the go with your mobile device in hand. We are always looking to improve our digital presence, and to that end, I would like to announce two updates.

Back in 2017, the Suffolk County Legislature completely overhauled our website at www.scnylegislature.us. Now, we are seeking public feedback on whether it is meeting your needs. The 2017 overhaul aimed to provide visitors with easy-to-navigate, accessible information about their legislative district and community. The new format offered a fresh design with more content, allowing users easier access to meeting information, reports, laws and proposed legislation, and calendar listings for public hearings. During the pandemic, more and more residents have been turning to our website for information and to participate in the

legislative process remotely.

We just launched a survey in an effort to solicit thoughts and ideas from the members of the public who use the legislature's website. Do you like it? Can you find what you need? How would you rate its usability? How can we improve it? We seek the answers to these questions and more at www.scnylegislature.us/WebsiteSurvey. Your input is valuable and can help us improve our website to better serve you. We want the website to be what you need it to be, and for that, we could use your feedback.

Hearing from constituents is so critically important to what we do as elected officials. For that reason, I have made it a priority to arrange for residents to provide testimony remotely while the legislature building remains closed to the public due to COVID-19 safety concerns. Up until now, we have been able to accommodate remote testimony by Zoom at our General Meetings both for public hearings, at which testimony is welcome on specific resolutions, and during the public portion, at which testimony is welcome on any topic.

I am proud to announce that starting next week, we will also be able to allow public testimony over Zoom at meetings of the legislature's committees, which typically convene the week before a General Meeting to discuss pending legislation. This new option to speak via Zoom during committees' public portions will be available starting with meetings being held Dec. 7-10.



Those wishing to speak may sign up at www.scnylegislature.us/Committee-PublicPortion. Zoom speakers will be granted 3 minutes to testify, the same amount of time they would have had if they had been able to attend the meeting in person.

Other options for remote testimony at committee meetings, in place since the onset of the pandemic, include leaving a three-minute voicemail at (631) 853-3685 or sending written testimony by email to clerk.legislature@suffolk-countyny.gov or by regular mail to the attention of the Clerk's Office at the Suffolk County Legislature, P.O. Box 6100, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

Government is in the best position to serve when its people are involved and engaged. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities to let your voice be heard. ■

POLICE BLOTTER

BAY SHORE

On Nov. 5 at approximately 5:25 p.m., an unidentified man stole a portable gas generator valued at approximately \$950 from the Bay Shore Lowes, located at 800 Sunrise Highway. Reports said the man fled the scene in a dark Acura MDX suburban with a Tennessee license plate. Anyone with information is advised to call Suffolk County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS Suffolk County Crime Stoppers.

A Brentwood woman was arrested in Bay Shore Nov. 25 for possession of a stolen debit card.

On Sept. 11 at 8:50 a.m., the woman allegedly stole a debit card from the Lowes at 800 Sunrise Highway in Bay Shore. She was arrested and charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree and two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree.

A glass garage door at the Bay Shore

Pep Boys Auto Parts & Service on Sunrise Highway was broken Nov. 27 by an unknown individual. Unspecified property was stolen.

WEST ISLIP

On Nov. 26, a man staying at the Bay Shore Inn located on Bay Shore Road in West Islip told police that a bag of Target merchandise that belonged to him was stolen from outside of the Inn while he was inside the Inn. When he returned outside, the bag was gone.

Someone damaged the decorative Christmas lights outside a home on Kimberly Place in West Islip Nov. 26.

Someone broke a window and stole a cash register from BTJ's Jungle on Sunrise Highway in West Islip Nov. 26.

A 2020 Toyota Highlander was stolen from outside Atlantic Auto Mall in West Islip Nov. 27. The vehicle was stolen from outside the store around 11:03 a.m. when the engine was running with the

keys in the ignition.

Around 1:50 a.m., an unknown individual stole two 12-pack containers of beer from the 7-Eleven located at 174 Higbie Lane in West Islip Nov. 27.

EAST ISLIP

Around 12:30 a.m., an unknown individual broke a door at the Laundry Depot located on West Main Street in East Islip Nov. 24.

Someone stole a speaker system from CVS Pharmacy on West Main Street in East Islip Nov. 25 around 8:30 p.m.

An unknown individual stole assorted food items from the East Islip Stop & Shop on Sunrise Highway Nov. 25 around 8 p.m.

An unknown individual broke the front glass door of Midtown Cellular located on East Main Street in East Islip Nov. 27. Around 4:30 a.m., the individual stole speakers, headphones and cell phones inside the store.

Information printed here was obtained from the Suffolk County Police Department. A criminal charge is an accusation against an individual. Unless and until proven guilty in court, individuals are presumed innocent of these charges. During the criminal justice process, individuals may be acquitted or may have a charge against them reduced or dropped.

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

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