

## Around LI

### GLEN COVE

#### Water line testing for leaks completed

A Syracuse company completed its testing of all 115 miles of Glen Cove's water lines on Monday, the city's public works director said.

"We're trying to determine what leaks, if any, there are," James Byrne said.

City officials will review the test results over the next month and then decide whether repairs or further investigations are necessary, he said. Water leakage can disrupt service and cost the city money, he said.

The initiative is the first in the city's history, said city spokeswoman Lisa Travatello.

Upstate Leak Detection used equipment that can detect sounds over water mains and hydrants, Byrne said. Those sounds can indicate whether there may be leaks, he said.

The city paid \$12,000 to Upstate Leak Detection for the testing, which began Jan. 3 and took place on weekdays, he said. The testing did not cause any disruption to residents' service, Byrne said.

— DAVID OLSON

### GREAT NECK PLAZA

#### Village poetry contest entry deadline nears

The deadline for submitting a piece in the village's seventh annual poetry contest is Monday. Poetry can be submitted in person by visiting Village Hall at 2 Gussack Plaza between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Poets 18 or older who live in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens or Kings counties can submit up to three original, unpublished pieces. Each poem must be 30 lines or fewer and should have a title.

All entries should contain two copies of each poem, one with the author's name and address on it. Contest organizers also want a cover sheet with the poet's name, address, phone number, email address and title of the poems.

There's a one-time \$15 entry fee. Any questions about the contest should be directed to poetry coordinator Carolyn



**CENTEREACH.** Students "skate" across "Unity Pond" in Rollin Haffer's physical education class at the Unity Drive Pre-K/Kindergarten Center yesterday. Students enjoyed a variety of winter-themed activities to help build strength, endurance and coordination as part of the school's physical education program.

Raphael at 516-482-4500 or gnppoetry@yahoo.com

— KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

### ST. JAMES

#### New civic group to hold first meeting

St. James' new civic association will hold its inaugural meeting at 7 p.m. today at the fire hall, 533 North Country Rd.

President Kerry Maher Weisse, a lifelong hamlet resident and director at her family's St. James Funeral Home, said the group will advocate with town government for local improvements and organize community events.

"Getting sewers to St. James is essential, but it's going to take a few years," she said yesterday. "For the time being, what we can do is fix up our town."

Near-term goals include sprucing up area parks, cleaning up Lake Avenue and installing benches on sidewalks

there, she said.

Officers for the association, formally known as the Community Association of Greater St. James, will meet in coming weeks with the MTA about installing fences along the rail lines and with the Smithtown Library about opening a branch in the hamlet, she said.

They are also planning veterans' recognition programs and summer events including a farmers market and a concert series.

Meetings will be held quarterly. The 20-person board draws from area schools, businesses and houses of worship, Weisse said.

The association charges a \$50 membership fee, payable at meetings or by check sent to Community Association of Greater St. James, P.O. Box 2054, St. James, NY 11780.

Members will get a car magnet. Those magnets, showing the St. James ZIP code, should soon become commonplace in the hamlet, Weisse said.

— NICHOLAS SPANGLER

### ASHAROKEN

#### Village trustees vote to pierce state tax cap

Asharoken Village trustees have passed a resolution to break through the tax cap — should it become necessary — in the 2017-18 fiscal budget.

The law is a contingency measure that Asharoken officials, like those in Northport and many other municipalities across the state, take each year before drafting a budget.

The decision on whether to actually surpass the cap would come later, during the budget process.

Officials can repeal the resolution if and when they determined it isn't necessary. It was passed 4-0 with one trustee absent at the village's Jan. 10 meeting.

Asharoken's 2016-17 budget was just over \$2 million. It stayed under the cap, and local taxes accounted for \$1.7 million of village revenue.

The village fiscal year runs July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018, and the budget is typically presented to Asharoken residents in March.

— VALERIE BAUMAN

### PATCHOGUE

#### Seniors get extension to file tax exemption

Patchogue has extended the deadline for senior residents to file an exemption for a reduction in their property taxes.

Residents age 65 and older who meet certain income requirements will now have until the last day of when the tax assessor files the final assessment role to apply for the exemption.

It used to be seniors had to file the exemption 90 days before the final assessment was filed. The 7-0 decision to amend section 387 of Village Code was made Monday night at Patchogue's village board meeting.

Village attorney Brian Egan said of some seniors: "They often don't think about it until they get their tax bill, that's when they realize they failed to file for the exemption."

The eligible senior must write a letter to the assessor and show good cause in order to file for the exemption.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

### MANHASSET

#### How drugs, alcohol affect teen brain

Manhasset residents can learn about how the teen brain is affected by drugs and alcohol during a discussion tomorrow at the public library.

Dr. Stephen Dewey, an investigator at Northwell Health's Feinstein Institute, will discuss his research on the impact of alcohol and drugs on a developing brain.

Manhasset students report alcohol use that is above national norms. According to a 2015 survey conducted by the Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse and Manhasset secondary schools, about 38 percent of sophomores and 66 percent of seniors drank alcohol within a 30-day period.

Students who attend the seminar will receive an hour of community service credit. Mandarin translation will be available.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at the library at 30 Onderdonk Ave.

— CHRISTINE CHUNG