

new patients quickly," Sugarman said.

— DELTHIA RICKS

MERRICK

Civic groups to host candidates' night

The South Merrick Community Civic Association is holding its annual "Meet the Candidates" presentation Tuesday.

The event will take place at the Merrick Road Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 2550B Clubhouse Rd. in Merrick.

Candidates running for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, New York State Senate and Assembly, and judicial positions will speak and be available to answer questions.

Civic associations from North and Central Merrick, North Bellmore and South Bellmore are also hosting.

— STEFANIE DAZIO

RIVERHEAD

Water quality report to be discussed

The last of three meetings on a new report on the state of the aquifer from a water quality commission on Long Island will be discussed tomorrow in Riverhead.

The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection is wrapping up a series of meetings on the recently released draft of the commission's State of the Aquifer report.

According to the report, which included information about the aquifer system beneath Long Island, the water cycle, the systems used to collect and treat wastewater, and how land use and population growth have impacted the quality and quantity of water on Long Island, commission officials assure the public that Long Island's public drinking water supply is still safe.

"The purpose and primary focus of this first State of the Aquifer report is to ensure that as many Long Islanders as possible understand that all the water they drink comes from the ground directly beneath us, and thus the actions we take directly above it impact the quality of the water we depend on for daily use," the report stated.

Messages were left with commission members for comment yesterday.

The hearing is at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Riverhead County Center in Riverside.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

HUNTINGTON

Identity theft topic of senior seminar

Senior citizens can learn about how to protect themselves from identity theft at a one-day educational seminar on Tuesday.

The Suffolk County Police Department and town Councilman Mark Cuthbertson will host the event, which will teach seniors strategies to protect their personal information.

Seniors can be more vulnerable to identity theft, and some criminals specifically target that population, according to Cuthbertson's release.

"Identity theft can cause a significant amount of financial and emotional hardship, which is why it is so important to help protect seniors from falling prey," Cuthbertson said in a release.

The seminar starts at 1:30 p.m. at Village Green Senior Center, 423 Park Ave. in Huntington.

The event will also offer free paper shredding from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., limited to three banker-size boxes per person.

A prescription-drug take-back will run concurrently with the shredding, giving the public a safe and environmentally sound way to dispose of old medication.

For more information, call 631-351-3171.

— VALERIE BAUMAN

HEMPSTEAD

Senior can sign up for free flu vaccines

Senior citizens who are residents of Hempstead Town can now register for free flu vaccines that will be administered during November at the town's senior centers.

The annual Senior Citizen Seasonal Flu Immunization Program is available for residents who are 60 and older. Residents are asked to register at least one week in advance at the town's senior centers.

Nassau University Medical Center and South Nassau Communities Hospital will bill insurance companies and residents will not need to pay a co-pay.

The immunizations will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following locations: Merrick Senior Center on Nov. 9; Franklin Square Senior Center on Nov. 10; Wantagh Senior Center on Nov. 14; Levittown Senior Center on Nov. 15;

Uniondale-Merrick Senior Center on Nov. 16.

For more information, call the Department of Senior Enrichment at 516-485-8100.

— STEFANIE DAZIO

EAST HAMPTON

Springs man charged with zoning violations

A Springs man charged with nearly 20 local housing and zoning code violations including overcrowding and illegally keeping a deer as a pet is scheduled for arraignment in East Hampton Town Justice Court on Nov. 14, the town's public safety director, David A. Betts, said Monday.

Angel Otavalo was charged with 16 allegations including three counts of having no smoke detector; one count of having no carbon monoxide detector; six counts of failing to have a certificate of occupancy for various rooms; two counts of construction without a building permit (including one for a pool and another for a volleyball court); one count of building a shed without a permit; two counts of no egress for the bedrooms in the basement; and one count of using an extension cord in lieu of permanent electrical wiring.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation police also charged Otavalo with unlawful possession of wildlife. Otavalo could not immediately be reached for comment Monday.

— LISA IRIZARRY

NASSAU COUNTY

Golfers can play 9 holes for \$9

County Executive Edward Mangano announced yesterday that Leisure Pass Discount Holders will receive a discounted price of \$9 at Nassau County's six 9-hole golf courses on weekends from October through March.

Normally, residents with such passes would pay \$17.

The county's 9-hole golf courses are in Bay Park in East Rockaway, 516-571-7242; Cantiague Park in Hicksville, 516-571-7061; Christopher Morley Park in Roslyn-North Hills, 516-571-8120; Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, 516-572-032; and North Woodmere Park, 516-571-7814/15. For information about Nassau parks call 516-572-0200 or visit nassaucountyny.gov.

— SID CASSESE

NORTH HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Another try at e-cigarette limit

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG

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Just a month after rejecting a proposal to ban colorful e-cigarette advertisements, the North Hempstead Town Board is still aiming to get tough on e-cigarettes with a law that would prohibit tobacco and e-cigarette sales to those under 21.

The proposed law, which is sponsored by Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth, will be discussed at a Nov. 15 public hearing. Bosworth said it offers an "excellent solution" to protect the children of North Hempstead from the ill effects of smoking.

"By restricting the sale itself, instead of just regulating the ads, we will protect the health of our children, regardless of the location of the store selling cigarettes or the color of the ads," Bosworth said at a recent board meeting.

Over the past few months, the town has taken a stronger stance against e-cigarettes. After an August vote to restrict vape stores and hookah bars to industrial and business zones, Councilwoman

Dina De Giorgio proposed a law that would regulate the size, color and location of advertisements for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

In September, the law was struck down by the town board because of concerns about its constitutionality and future litigation.

Bosworth said the new legislation would "address the same goal that the advertising regulation attempted," with the additional benefit of applying not just near schools and other public places, but throughout the town.

North Hempstead follows the example of both New York City and Suffolk County, which also banned the sale of tobacco products and e-cigarettes to individuals under 21. Nassau County has yet to pass legislation restricting the sale and use of these products.

De Giorgio said she considered the new proposed law a "win" and is glad the town board is taking the lead to address the issue of teen smoking. "The children of North Hempstead are the most important thing," she said. "Protecting them is our goal."

SUFFOLK COUNTY

RNs vote to OK strike

Nurses from two Catholic Health Services hospitals in Suffolk County have voted to authorize strikes, New York's largest union for registered nurses said.

Nurses at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown and St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson — working under expired contracts — approved strike authorizations, according to a Monday news release from the New York State Nurses Association, which said it represents more than 40,000 members.

The registered nurses are asking for a contract that enforces adequate staffing for patient care and health benefits and pay needed to help recruit and retain skilled health care workers at the hospitals,

according to the release.

Registered nurses have presented contract proposals to management and negotiations continue, the release said.

No specific strike dates have been determined.

A spokeswoman for Catholic Health Services said in a statement the organization has not received a notice to strike and that dates have been scheduled to continue negotiations.

She said management is working diligently to resolve all issues.

"We look forward to a mutually satisfactory collective bargaining agreement which rewards our nurses and meets the needs of our hospitals," the statement said.

— GARY DYMSKI