



Manhasset Times



GUIDE TO
MEMORIAL DAY

PAGES 33-34, 55-56

ED BOARD EYES
DRUG USE

PAGE 3

KAPLAN TOUTS EXPERIENCE
AS IRANIAN IMMIGRANT

PAGE 8

Supporters rally for return of 6th Precinct

Nearly 50 officials, residents call for undoing merger with 3rd Pct.

BY NOAH MANSKAR

Both public safety and Manhasset's 6th Police Precinct itself have fallen in bad shape since its merger with the 3rd Precinct, local officials and civic leaders said Monday.

Nearly four dozen officials and residents — including Democratic Nassau County legislators, North Hempstead town lawmakers and police union leaders — renewed calls for the Nassau County Police Department and County Executive Edward Mangano to reopen a fully staffed 6th Precinct and repair the police building they say has fallen into disrepair.

"This building that was designed to promote law and order and public safety is threatening to become a blight on the community, and it is a hazard to public health," Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum (D-Great Neck) said.

Civic leaders and officials have decried the 2012 merger since December, saying police service

in the former precinct covering Manhasset, Roslyn, Great Neck and Port Washington has suffered while the promised \$5 million cost savings has not been realized.

The 6th Precinct building has remained open on Community Drive in Manhasset as a "community policing center" where residents can come to report crimes. It is also the headquarters for the police department's Highway Patrol unit.

But the building suffers from broken sidewalks, missing floor tiles, damaged ceilings and other physical problems that have gone unaddressed for months, said James Carver, president of the Nassau County Patrolman's Benevolent Association police union.

"That's not a community center that I'd like to go into," said North Hempstead Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth, who opposed the merger as a county legislator. "It's run down, it appears unsafe. We deserve better."

Continued on Page 74

HOUSE FIRE



PHOTO BY LEE GENSER

The Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department fights to contain a blaze at a Bridge Road residence that was destroyed by fire early Saturday. **See story on Page 2.**

Phillips gets GOP nod in run for Martins' seat

BY JOE NIKIC

Village of Flower Hill Mayor Elaine Phillips announced Thursday that she will run for state Sen. Jack Martins' 7th district seat after she was nominated by the Nassau County

Republican Party.

"I am honored to be nominated to run for the state Senate in the seventh district," Phillips said. "I believe that, as a member of the state Senate, I would be in a position to continue my work to reduce

property taxes, protect the environment and provide every child with an opportunity to succeed."

The announcement comes almost two weeks after she said she went to Albany to meet

Continued on Page 74

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Supporters rally for return of 6th Precinct

Continued from Page 1

The Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations first called for the reopening in a December letter. Civic leaders joined lawmakers in March to call for the precinct's reopening following a countywide spike in residential burglaries.

Civic group Secretary Sue Auriemma presented the county Legislature with 1,500 signatures on online petition her group started two weeks ago, along with more than 500 signatures town officials collected.

The merged 3rd Precinct stretches from Manorhaven to Hempstead Turnpike and includes Roosevelt Field Mall, county government buildings and Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. It is divided into the 3rd North Subdivision — the former 6th precinct — and the 3rd South Subdivision.

The merger has left the more affluent North Subdivision without enough detectives and plainclothes officers and stretched patrol officers too thin, causing quality-of-life issues such as traffic violations to fall through the cracks, Auriemma said.

"The 3rd Precinct is like a black hole — it sucks most of their resources into that precinct and the (commanding officers) cannot spend the amount of they can to service the North Shore communities," said Brian Hoels, president of Nassau's Superior Officers Association.

Acting Police Commissioner Thomas Krumpster and Mangano spokesman Brian Nevin said funds for 6th precinct build-



PHOTO BY NOAH MANSKAR

Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum (D-Great Neck) calls for the 6th precinct's return at a press conference Monday.

ing repairs would come from the county's capital plan, which Democratic legislators are blocking until the county appoints an inspector general.

Birnbaum said she has never seen a line for repairs in the capital plan, and the police department's operating budget should cover them. Nevin called her claim "political cover" and said the capital plan is "specifically for projects of their nature."

Krumpster has repeatedly said the merger has not hurt public safety. Crime is down 22 percent countywide since 2011 and down 4 percent in the former

6th precinct so far this year compared to the same period in 2015 in the former 6th precinct, Nevin said.

Crime has also risen 10 percent in the 5th Precinct since its merger with the 4th Precinct was undone last year, Krumpster said.

"It really is irresponsible to further this belief that the public isn't safe," Krumpster told the county Legislature on Monday. "They are safer today than they were five years ago, they are safer here than in any other suburban community in the area, and Nassau County maintains the proud distinction of being one

of the safest large suburban communities in America."

Reopening the precinct would cost \$5 million the county does not have or otherwise mean reassigning patrol officers to administrative roles, potentially compromising public safety, Krumpster has said.

Krumpster said the mergers have saved more than \$50 million. The 3rd Precinct merger only affected administrative jobs and eliminated 500 salaries for "duplicative back office positions," Nevin said.

Crime statistics do not make North Hempstead residents feel safer, Bosworth said, and they often do not reflect quality of life problems.

"It doesn't matter how many times people are telling us this isn't the case," she told the Legislature. "We're living it. It is the case."

The department will have a new pool of officers to staff a full 6th Precinct when 183 recruits graduate from the police academy at the end of May, its largest class in 20 years, Carver said.

The police department plans to use those officers to add eight officers to two community policing programs, Krumpster said: Problem-Oriented Police, which it reinstated in November, and the recently established Community-Oriented Police Enforcement programs.

The 3rd Precinct currently has four Problem-Oriented Police officers, two for each subdivision. The 3rd and 6th precincts had four officers each before the program was disbanded due to budget constraints.

Phillips gets GOP nod in run for Martins' seat

Continued from Page 1

with Martins and members of the Republican Senate Conference about a potential run for the 7th District seat.

Martins filed FEC papers in January to create a campaign committee to run for the 3rd Congressional district's seat just two days after U.S. Rep. Steve Israel announced he would step down at the end of his term in November.

The Old Westbury resident and former Mineola mayor had been considering a congressional run for several months and began discussing it more seriously after Israel's announcement, campaign strategist E. O'Brien Murray said.

Phillips was re-elected for her third term as mayor of Flower Hill in March.

She said her experiences serving as mayor would help her in serving the constituents of the 7th Senate District.

"In Flower Hill, I created the village's first Ethics Board and rewrote our ethics policy to ensure that village residents have an open, honest government," Phillips said. "I appointed talented people to the village board, without ever asking their political party. And we've worked together to cut property tax rates, complete major beautification projects and advance innovative environmental preservation programs — protecting local groundwater, planting hundreds of new trees and promoting energy conservation."

"I am going to run on the record that

I have here as a mayor because I believe we've done great stuff," she added. "I think it's the expertise I can use to help the greater population."

If elected, she said would fight against political corruption and ensure the district's schools receive their "fair share" of state aid.

"In the state Senate, I will work tirelessly to end the corruption that's plagued our state for far too long," Phillips said. "I'll make sure that our schools receive their fair share of state school aid to give our children every opportunity to succeed and ease the burden on property taxpayers."

She said she would also ensure that the environment would be protected.

"I'll never forget that we have a responsibility to leave a cleaner environment for future generations," Phillips said.

On Monday, Phillips announced her opposition to the Long Island Rail Road's proposed third track, which would add an additional track along 9.8 miles of LIRR's Main Line between Floral Park and Hicksville.

"As a village mayor, and treasurer of the Nassau County Village Officials Association, I know the details that should go into planning a project of this scope and size and as of right now the details are not there," she said. "I also know this plan, as it stands before us, will harm the quality



Village of Flower Hill Mayor Elaine Phillips

of life of our villages and its constituents."

"This plan, as it stands right now should not be allowed to move forward," Phillips added.

Her involvement with community groups includes serving as president of the Munsey Park School Community As-

sociation, a member of the Manhasset Schools' Citizens' Advisory Committee on Finance and a member of the Buckley County Day School's Board of Trustees.

She also served as a board member of the Science Museum of Long Island and is currently on the Development Council for the College of Liberal Arts of Pennsylvania State University.

Democrat Adam Haber announced in February he was stepping down from the Nassau Interim Finance Authority board to seek a second bid for the state Senate's 7th District seat.

"I am looking forward to debating the issues with Adam Haber and giving the residents of seventh Senate district a clear choice in November," Phillips said.

Since losing first time around to Martins in 2014, Haber, an East Hills restaurateur and former bond trader, said he has developed greater name recognition from his work on the NIFA board and as a Roslyn school trustee, which would give him an advantage in the race.

"Nassau voters don't need a hand-picked candidate from the corrupt Skelos machine — they want a fresh voice in Albany who will clean up our state government," Haber said in a statement. "We need to pass real ethics reforms, fully fund our schools and lower the tax burden. I will go to Albany and deliver results and not simply go along with the status quo and always put Long Island first."