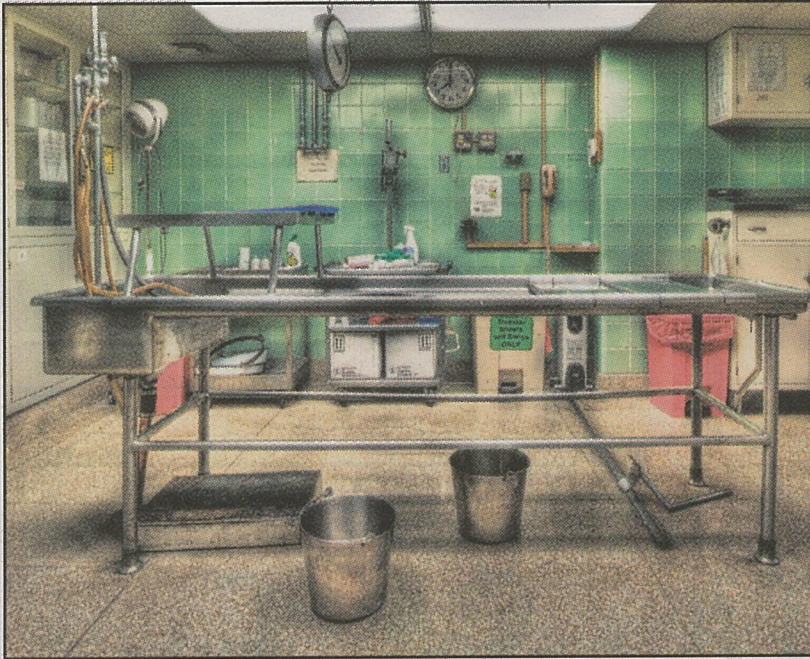


Drug Deaths: Numbers Speak For Themselves



Too many of our young people pass through the morgue. (Photo by Brook Ward)



FROM
THE EDITOR

**JOHN
OWENS**

It's war. Or at least the carnage is on par with armed conflict: 104 in 2012, 106 in 2013 and 21 through May of this year. That's an average of more than two deaths per week, year in and year out. Now, as in recent weeks, I am referring to deaths from overdoses of heroin and other opiates here in Nassau County. Just Nassau County.

231 lives in the past 29 months.

The county has been at the forefront of fighting this epidemic with substance abuse treatment, counseling and even training for the general public on how to use a Narcan kit (which the county provides) to reverse the deadly effects of overdoses. But the body count continues.

To give you a sense of just how close to home these deaths occur, here is a community-by-community tally of what the police call "fatal aided cases." The source: Eden Laikin, Nassau County director of governmental research.

If only we could declare a truce in this war.

*John Owens is editor in chief of Anton Community Newspapers.
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Community	2012	2013	2014*
East Meadow	6	4	1
Levittown	6	5	0
Hicksville	5	8	1
Massapequa	5	3	0
Westbury	5	4	0
Baldwin	4	3	1
Plainview	4	3	0
Wantagh	4	4	0
East Rockaway	3	4	2
Elmont	3	4	1
Floral Park	3	1	0
Freeport	3	1	0
Hempstead	3	5	2
Island Park	3	0	0
Seaford	3	1	1
Uniondale	3	1	1
Bellerose Terrace	2	0	0
Franklin Square	2	3	0
Great Neck	2	3	0
Malverne	2	0	0
North Bellmore	2	2	2
Roosevelt	2	1	0
Bayville	1	1	0
Bethpage	1	2	0
Cedarhurst	1	0	0
East Garden City	1	0	0
East Norwich	1	0	0
Garden City	1	1	0
Glen Head	1	1	0
Hewlett	1	0	0
Hewlett Point	1	1	0
Inwood	1	0	0
Jericho	1	0	0
Lakeview	1	0	0
Long Beach	1	0	0
Lynbrook	1	0	2
Malverne Park	1	0	0
Massapequa Park	1	1	0
Merrick	1	3	2
Mineola	1	1	0
New Hyde Park	1	1	0
North Long Beach	1	2	0
North Woodmere	1	1	0
Oceanside	1	4	1
Old Bethpage	1	0	0
Point Lookout	1	0	0
Rockville Centre	1	0	0
Upper Brookville	1	0	0
Valley Stream	1	7	0
Williston Park	1	0	0
Bellmore	0	1	1
North Lynbrook	0	0	1
South Farmingdale	0	3	0
West Hempstead	1	3	0
North Massapequa	0	2	0
North New Hyde Park	0	2	0
Atlantic Beach	0	1	0
East Williston	0	1	0
Farmingdale	0	1	0
North Lawrence	0	1	0
North Merrick	0	1	2
North Valley Stream	0	1	0
Oyster Bay	0	1	0
Sea Cliff	0	1	0
South Hempstead	0	1	0

*January through May 2014

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