

Around LI

ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Molloy, LIRR to offer fare reimbursement

A first-of-its-kind LIRR fare reimbursement initiative for Molloy College students could serve as a model for similar student discount programs at other colleges, officials announced recently.

Long Island Rail Road officials, Molloy administrators and elected officials gathered Thursday at the Rockville Centre train station to announce the program, which is being fully funded by Molloy.

The Rockville Centre college will reimburse 25% of the cost to Molloy students who purchase a monthly, or 10-trip, LIRR ticket.

"In doing so, they not only ease their students' life by making traveling back and forth to class easier, but they are helping to get cars off the road by encouraging the use of mass transportation and reducing our carbon footprint on Long Island," LIRR president Phillip Eng said.

LIRR and Molloy officials also said they hope the program will lead to the railroad partnering with other colleges to offer discounted fares for students — an idea long-promoted by the LIRR Commuter Council, the railroad's state-regulated rider advocacy group.

"We'd like this to become a movement," Molloy vice president Edward Thompson said.

— ALFONSO A. CASTILLO

SOUTHOLD

Code adjustment to relax corner-lot rules

Southold officials are considering a code change that would ease certain restrictions on homes located on corner lots.

According to town code, homes at the corner of two streets have two front yards. Supervisor Scott Russell said the code presents strict limitations on such properties when it comes to certain allowable uses.

"That presents substantial limitations on the property because if you need to meet the town code requirements . . . [the code] restricts a lot of what we can do," Russell said.



KENDALL RODRIGUEZ

The robots are coming!

GREAT NECK. Floral Park Memorial High School student Sukhsimran Singh, 16, of the Robopandas, checks on his robot at the First Tech Challenge at Great Neck North Middle School Sunday. The worldwide competition involved 69,000 students.

Russell told the town board at its Jan. 14 work session that a code change could modify the language so those restrictions would not be as stringent.

The supervisor said the code committee would consider the proposal this month.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA

SMITHTOWN

Opposition to outdoor plans for Garden Grill

The owner of a decades-old Smithtown restaurant wants to offer outdoor dining, but residents who live on an adjacent

Village of the Branch street said the proposal would bring noise and traffic problems.

Chris Tartaglia, an engineer representing Garden Grill owner Fred Marsilio, said at Tuesday's Zoning Board of Appeals hearing that his client wanted to attach a deck with 24 seats to the Victorian-style restaurant on North Country Road, an amenity he said many other restaurants in the town already have.

Judges Lane, a residential street in Village of the Branch, runs behind the restaurant and runs onto North Country Road. The application requires a special exception for outdoor

dining and a variance of a special-exception requirement that outdoor dining not be located within 150 feet of any residence district. The restaurant's narrow lot would only permit a 79-foot setback, but the distance to any house would be at least 200 feet, Tartaglia said. The proposal would also add 10 parking spaces. Planning Department staffers have recommended approval.

But "outdoor dining is something we'd rather not see," said trustee John Carro, citing busy nights already going on at the Smithtown Historical Society's nearby Brush Barn, which is sometimes rented out for

parties and events.

Residents said they feared the new parking stalls would impede an already difficult turn onto North Country Road as well as add noise.

— NICHOLAS SPANGLER

HUNTINGTON TOWN

Board reappoints town attorney

The Huntington Town Board made a number of appointments and reappointments at its Jan. 13 meeting.

Town Attorney Nick Ciappetta was appointed to a two-year term effective Jan. 1.

He was approved with a 3-2 vote. Board members Mark Cuthbertson and Ed Smyth voted against his reappointment.

Other appointments within the town attorney's office included naming Huntington-based attorneys Leland Solon and Susan J. Coleman to prosecute violations under the town code and special districts in District Court.

Solon and Coleman's appointments were approved 5-0.

— DEBORAH S. MORRIS

MASSAPEQUA PARK

New mayor named, faces March election

Teresa Spinosa, who has served on the Massapequa Park Village board of trustees for 18 years, was appointed mayor by the board at its Jan. 13 meeting.

Spinosa replaced Jeffrey Pravato, who resigned to serve as Oyster Bay Receiver of Taxes. Spinosa, 60, a former accountant, served as the village's deputy mayor for six years. She will fill out the remainder of Pravato's term until an election is held in March.

Trustee Daniel Pearl cast the lone vote against her appointment. Pearl, 47, a deputy commissioner of public works in Oyster Bay and leader of the Massapequa Park Republican club, is running against Spinosa, who is also a Republican.

"The big problem right now is trying to keep the village independent from outside influences," Spinosa said, referring to the Nassau Republican Party running Pearl against her.

— TED PHILLIPS