

THE LONG ISLAND Advance

147th Year, Issue 31 | MARCH 29, 2018 | [f](https://www.facebook.com/longislandadvance) [t](https://www.twitter.com/longislandadvance) [i](https://www.instagram.com/longislandadvance) Read us online at longislandadvance.net | \$1.00



Large showing for student-organized march

Hundreds swarmed the streets of Patchogue Village on Saturday, March 24 for a March for Our Lives beginning at Rep. Lee Zeldin's office on Oak Street, in protest of his stance on gun control. Chants from the crowd included, "Hey, hey, no more NRA!" Pictured at lower right is Isabel Hoffman of Manorville carrying a sign displaying bullet marks on a school zone sign. Also pictured are children as young as elementary-school age marching, calling for action and the Zeltmanns of East Quogue's sign calling for protection of children, not guns.

Adv/Zachary Towlen & Krystle DiNicola

Road-improvement district planned

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

The Brookhaven Town Council voted March 22 to establish the industry-ridden Munsell Road in Medford as a road-improvement district, a \$5 million project that will affect taxes on the properties — one as significantly as \$379,000 — along the currently private road for over 20 years. The map plan and report for the establishment of the district indicate that six properties will be at least partially seized by the town by means of eminent domain.

"Although people have made a business and hadn't needed to make the investment that they should have [in order] to make sure their properties abide with town code, we're looking to [clean up this road]," said town supervisor Ed Romaine. "We don't have any other road like this in Brookhaven Town."

Munsell Road is the westernmost road in the industrial district located between Horseblock Road and Southaven Avenue, and the 30 acres of land it sits on incorporates approximately 50 properties. It is a private road and is not maintained by the town, which has been a barrier for property owners to receive approvals for site plans.

"I'm baffled by how we got to this point with this road," said councilman Kevin LaValle. "There's no road, and we have development all up and down it."

Code violations regarding properties on Munsell Road span much further than lack of site plans. Unregistered vehicles, no building permits, no certificate of occupancy, abandoned vehicles in the right-of-way, trailer with evidence of residential use, no special permit for outdoor storage, nonpermitted material screening activity (sand), and piles of debris were listed

See ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT on page 4

Let the fundraising begin

Patchogue Theatre turns 20

BY NICOLE ALLEGREZZA

A new stage curtain, orchestra pit cover, computers, an office space and an extended bar are all among the items on Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts' wish list.

Not only does this year promise to reveal the theatre's new and state-of-the-art marquee as well as a crazy lineup, curated by their year-old new theatre executive director Gary Hygom, with the help of public relations and marketing manager Bernie Fabig, but it also marks 20 years since reopening as a performing arts center.

Currently, everyone at the theatre is in full force with their fundraising efforts, explained board chair Christopher Capobianco, by ramping up ways to raise money for capital expenses.

As of January, backstage renovations, including new paint and furniture to accommodate performers, were completed and in 2016 major theatre renovations included new seats, painting and ceiling restoration. At that time, mostly unseen, technical renovations such as a new conduit under the floor were installed and the subfloor was repaired. But, Capobianco

said, the largest renovation seen at the theatre was back in the '90s when the lobby was built and added to the then-split theatre house, which was brought back to life after being boarded up for almost a decade.

This May will also mark 95 years since the original vaudeville theatre opened in 1923 before later becoming a large movie house in 1930. The theatre, he said, was split in the '70s, closed in the late '80s and left abandoned until the community rallied and the Village of Patchogue purchased the building in 1996.

"The village has done a great job of getting us to where we are now," continued Capobianco. "But now it's really up to us to start making our productions and audience experience better and equal to any theatre in the New York area," he added, emphasizing that the theatre hopes to make upgrades through donations without using taxpayer dollars.

That includes the 20-year-old ripped and tattered red stage curtain and the age-old orchestra pit cover, which Capobianco describes as "shot," and the curtain only has the capability of going up and down

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