

# THE LONG ISLAND Advance



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## Nor'easter puts Bellport Dock underwater

True to its name, March came in like a lion, giving us all hope at it leaving like a lamb after last weekend's nor'easter. Beginning last Friday, the storm hit Long Island with strong winds, rain and even some sleet, causing toppled trees, flooding and power outages. Pictured is Bellport Dock underwater at around 1:30 p.m. last Sunday. As of press time, a winter storm warning was in effect until earlier this morning. As wintry road conditions developed yesterday afternoon, residents prepared for winter storm Quinn.

Adv/Michael Busch

## Residents unhappy with health center

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

Citizens on residential roads near the planned opening of a Hudson River Healthcare facility on North Ocean Avenue voiced their concerns at the North Patchogue Fire Department on March 1. Over 70 residents, as well as Legis. Robert Calarco (D-Patchogue) and representatives for congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-1) and Town of Brookhaven councilman Neil Foley (R-Patchogue), attended the event spearheaded by HRH.

"I have worked hard all my life to live in that neighborhood," one resident said. "I don't want the value of my home to be affected."

The neighborhood consists of residential streets, where Harris Street and others sit on a roughly 1,100-foot stretch of land sandwiched between the busy roads Route 112 and North Ocean Avenue, just north of Sunrise Highway. Jones Street and Herbert Circle border the lot on the north and east, respectively, and the lot is

clearly visible to adjacent homes. The lot had previously been a Verizon location.

The residents in attendance pleaded for the possibility of relocating the project to a more suitable location that doesn't impede on the quality of life of residents and is accessible to a sewer district. Suggestions like the closed Pathmark and Patchogue Floral Fantasyland lots were shot down by Calarco for reasons such as improper zoning.

"Unfortunately, it isn't as easy to find a place as you might think," Calarco said. "There were two criteria Hudson River was looking at: to keep it in the 11772 zip code because the bulk of the patients come from there and to have it in a location that was both big enough and properly zoned to house the facility."

The residents focused on the issues with the project that affect their quality of life as neighbors.

"We're a neighborhood of many small children," resident Audrey Ventimiglia said. "We have a lot of seniors, including

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## FEMA funds awarded for dock

BY TARA SMITH

Five years after Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc on Long Island, many South Shore communities are still rebuilding. In Bellport Village, "main pier FEMA submission" has been an agenda item at most village meetings for the better part of four years, since village officials began looking into federal funding sources to repair the dock.

At a village meeting last week, Mayor Ray Fell finally had some good news to share: FEMA has awarded the village \$2.3 million to repair the marina bulkhead

and parking lot, damaged as a result of Sandy. According to FEMA documents, the award was approved on Feb. 13. Last month, U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced that \$4.3 million in federal funding had been awarded to two Long Island municipalities. Bellport will receive \$2.3 million, and the rest of the money will help the town of Hempstead pay for repairs to the Merrick sanitation building.

"Critical infrastructure throughout Long Island was hit hard by Superstorm

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## Fight ensues after installation

BY NICOLE ALLEGREZZA

Four Hagerman firefighters were arrested early Sunday, March 4 after a fight erupted between members of a wedding party and members of the fire department after attending their installation dinner at East Wind Caterers in Wading River.

The Riverhead Police Department responded to the catering hall after receiving numerous calls of a large fight involving approximately 40 to 50 people. Accord-

ing to police, the fight started in the main foyer and resulted in the groom of the wedding party sustaining injuries to his face and upper body after being struck with fists by three different subjects. The groom's name was not released.

"Numerous subjects, mainly intoxicated, started pushing, cursing and hitting one another," read the Riverhead Police Department's press release.

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