

# THE LONG ISLAND Advance

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*The Aqua.....* On the beautiful Patchogue River



## Patchogue's first waterfront hotel in decades

Mike Bruemmer, owner of Off Key Tikki in Patchogue Village, envisions turning his adjacent waterfront building into a hotel/catering hall called The Aqua sometime next year. The five-story hotel would accommodate approximately 50-plus rooms, with a ground-floor catering hall and top-floor condos overlooking the Patchogue River with views to the bay and ocean. Inset: Bruemmer stands on the balcony of the existing building overlooking the Patchogue River, holding a photo of the once-rundown site he first purchased.

Adv/Allegrezza

## Waterfront hotel at Off Key Tikki

BY NICOLE ALLEGREZZA

The era of hotels in the Village of Patchogue has come and gone, leaving the newly revived community awaiting the imminent arrival of what will be the first newly built hotel in decades.

According to deputy mayor Jack Krieger, the last operating hotel he remembers was the Patchogue Hotel, which used to be located across from the post office on Main Street. But that closed in the '60s, leaving the village sans lodging, aside from a motel

on the outskirts of town.

Among talked-about plans for a new Main Street hotel, Mike Bruemmer, owner of the Off Key Tikki on the Patchogue River, is eyeing the possibility of opening Patchogue's first hotel on the waterfront since the closure of The Clifton, located between Bay and Grove avenues, and the Mascot Hotel, located at the end of South Ocean Avenue.

The last surviving waterfront hotel, mayor Paul Pontieri recalls, was either the old Smithport Hotel turned boarding home

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## Housing project proposed for East Patchogue

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

An 80-unit multifamily residential complex has been proposed for a vacant lot located at the intersection of East Main Street and Grove Avenue in East Patchogue. The property, formerly a True Value Hardware store, which was demolished by the owners in 2011, was recently rezoned from J2 Business to J6, which allows for the proposed use by the developer.

The Northwind Group, a Hauppauge-based building development company, announced their plan to build a roughly 80,000-square-foot structure called The Grove on the 3 1/2-acre parcel. The company has completed multiple projects in Suffolk County, including Setauket Meadows and Village Vistas in Port Jefferson, and others are currently under construction.

The proposal would be the first development of its kind in East Patchogue and is part of a larger effort to revitalize consumerism in the area.

"The [Brookhaven] Town comprehensive plan seeks to situate new mixed development in downtown areas, such as this," said Jim Tsunis, managing member of the Northwind Group, at the Miramar Beach Civic Association meeting on April 24. "Patchogue is thriving. There's no reason why East Patchogue can't also have some type of growth and get the retail to rebound in that area."

The key to revamping a community like East Patchogue's retail success, Tsunis said, is to focus efforts on the downtown area. "Just think back to what Patchogue

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