



FAB FOUR:
The Beatles landed 50 years ago, and the impact echoed here. **B1**

FREE! TAKE ONE WITH YOU!



ÉMIGRÉ:
Is an influx of wealthy Russians making the East End home? **R1**



CLUTCH PERFORMANCE:
Bonackers come up big in a must-win game. **A12**

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Town To Tackle Airport Noise

BY SHAYE WEAVER

Trying to get a hold on East Hampton Airport issues right out of the gate, East Hampton Town Councilwoman and airport liaison Kathee Burke-Gonzalez said the Town Board will appoint committees on Thursday, February 6, to analyze the airport and plan for its future.

At the town's work session on Tuesday morning, Ms. Burke-Gonzalez revealed plans to conduct financial and technical noise analyses this spring with the help of board-appointed committees, all with the intent of developing a plan for the airport that addresses operating finances, noise abatement, operations, infrastructure and capital financing.

The financial analysis, she said, would focus on operating expenses, including maintenance, current revenue, prior revenue trends, possible new revenue streams and leases at the airport. She said the focus would be on obtaining reasonable estimates of airport net cash flow under different operating scenarios.

The town's Budget and Financial Advisory Committee and additional people, including Frank Dalene, David Gruber, Gene Oshrin, Pat Trunzo and Tom Twomey, are going to do the analysis, which is slated for completion by the spring, Ms. Burke-Gonzalez said.

"Once the potential cash flow

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The rising deer populations has been the subject of much discussion in the area for many years.

DANA SHAW

Deer Cull Is A Dead Issue

Town, village pull out of plan

BY SHAYE WEAVER

Animal advocates and deer hunters celebrated this week after both East Hampton Town and Village backed out of the Long Island Farm Bureau's deer cull program, which was slated to kill thousands of deer on the East End this spring, and Sagaponack Village quickly followed suit.

The announcement came the day after East Hampton Town was issued a temporary restraining order, barring it from completing and implementing a contract with the Long Island Farm Bureau and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for culling deer. The plan was to use USDA sharpshooters throughout East End towns to reduce the herd numbers.

The restraining order resulted from a lawsuit against the town by advocate Ron Delsener and the East Hampton Group for Wildlife.

On Friday, East Hampton Village Mayor Paul Rickenbach Jr. said that the restraining order is not what prompted the Village Board's decision to pull out of the cull program, but that it was

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HOW MANY ARE THERE?

Population surveys leave more questions than answers

BY VIRGINIA GARRISON

How many whitetail deer are on the South Fork?

The question seems reasonable, and the answer fundamental to making decisions about managing deer populations in the region.

But, despite recent discussions about controlling the deer population in East Hampton and Southampton towns, it's simply not clear what that population is. Counting deer is an inexact science—it's

not possible to tally each and every one—and estimates vary depending on the type of survey being used.

Southampton Town hasn't tried to count its deer, but East Hampton has—and the results have provided ammunition for both pro- and anti-culling contingents.

An aerial survey in 2013 reported 877 deer throughout East Hampton Town. A distance sampling survey in 2006 estimated the population as 3,293. Some argue that the difference shows that the population decreased significantly. But the town

planning director, Marguerite Wolffsohn, is among several who say the two surveys simply cannot be compared.

Flyover surveys can miss deer hidden by trees, while distance surveys, which extrapolate an overall number based on sample sections of habitat, can fail to account for the movement and irregular dispersion of deer. On Shelter Island, for example, an extrapolation survey estimated 1,868 deer, while an aerial survey re-

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Survivor Found Her Calling

BY LAURA WEIR

Michele Pollock Rich, the new executive director of The Retreat, a domestic violence service agency in East Hampton, is no stranger to domestic violence herself. As a survivor, she is dedicated to helping women who have fallen into the grips of abusive partners.

Although Ms. Pollock Rich does not like to discuss what led her to suddenly redirect her life and career at the age of 37, she said she is passionate about her calling.

"It was what prompted me to go to law school," she said of her

experience with domestic violence. "I was a teacher, and I decided to reconsider my career choices."

Ms. Pollock Rich was a married mother of three and teaching high school in the Hudson Valley in New York when she separated from her husband and moved her three young children to South Jersey to attend law school. With a master's degree in American history from New York University and a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany, she went to Temple University's Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia on a scholarship.

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A group gathered outside Village Hall on McGuirk Street in East Hampton Village Tuesday to protest new transmission poles.

KYRIL BROMLEY

Residents Protest High-Power Lines

They want them buried

BY ERICA THOMPSON

The recent installation of new utility poles on McGuirk Street in East Hampton Village and a transmission line from East Hampton to Amagansett prompted concerned residents to meet with Mayor Paul Rickenbach Jr. and representatives of PSE&G at Village Hall on February 4.

Gregory Olson, the distribution business team leader at PSE&G, which took over managing Long Island's electricity for the Long Island Power Authority on January 1, acknowledged that the new poles are built to handle a high-voltage load, 33 kilovolts, but would only be used for 23 kilovolts. A load of 13 kilovolts is what existed, and

what is typical on Long Island, but the 23-kilovolt lines will be able to handle increased demands for electricity in the East Hampton area, he said.

However, residents of McGuirk Street and the surrounding area fear both the health and environmental risks associated with the new poles, as well as their aesthetic effect on the neighborhood.

"It's night and day between what's been put up in the past three weeks and the existing poles," said Jack Forst, an East Hampton Village resident who lives on a property directly behind McGuirk Street. He added that he did not receive any notice of the installation until

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Tenants Say They Are Sick From Mold

Windmill Village II faces lawsuit

BY SHAYE WEAVER

While the snow fell heavily outside her apartment in Windmill Village II, a Section 8 apartment complex on Accabonac Road in East Hampton, Helen Miley recounted how she and her partner, Victor Heacter, always have to sleep with the windows open to keep out the smell of mold.

Daily, Ms. Miley scrubs her walls, doors and baseboards with bleach to get rid of the mold that she said reappears regularly.

On top of her daily cleaning routine, she said she has to put up with bad headaches and a nasty cough that doesn't seem to go away.

"I can't breathe and there ain't a God-damn person who cares anything about anybody," she said about the mold situation at

the complex. "I used to go into town 10 times a day. I would ride my bike. I'm 64 but I've aged 100 years since moving here."

An ongoing issue with mold at Windmill Village II, one of East Hampton Town's low-income housing complexes, came to a head recently as two of its residents, Eleanor Cobb and Joan Holden, hired attorney Frank Pelligrini to represent them in a lawsuit they hope to file against the Windmill Village LLC board and management.

Last spring, the managers had hired Insight Environmental of Patchogue to assess the on-going mold problem and form a plan for remediation. Sheetrock covered in mold was removed from the basement and what-

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Michele Pollock Rich, the new executive director of The Retreat in East Hampton.

KYRIL BROMLEY



Helen Miley and Eleanor Cobb point out where they say mold has grown between the floor boards of Ms. Miley's apartment in Windmill Village II.

SHAYE WEAVER