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**OYSTER BAY/COLD SPRING HARBOR**

**Environmental group gets municipalities**

The majority of municipalities invited to formally participate in the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee, a fledgling environmental group operating under a federal grant that expires next month, have signed up for membership, committee chairman Eric Swenson said.

Eleven of the 18 invited villages, towns, city and counties have committed annual dues ranging from \$1,250 for villages to \$9,750 for counties, he said.

In exchange, the committee is to help them secure environmental grants, meet federal and state mandates to avoid fines, and perform other tasks relating to the harbors.

Those agreeing to participate are the villages of Bayville, Centre Island, Lattingtown, Laurel Hollow, Mill Neck, Muttontown and Cove Neck, the city of Glen Cove, the towns of Oyster Bay and Huntington, and Nassau County, Swenson said last week.

"Most of them have been very enthusiastic," Swenson said. "The ones a little farther away from the water" have been more hesitant, he said.

"We're hopeful that they'll do the right [thing] and join us," Swenson said. "As it is, we do have a good group, but the more, the better, and the more effective we'll be."

Upper Brookville is set to consider membership at its board meeting today, he said.

Suffolk County is the only invitee to decline membership, though participating members' dues to the committee won't necessarily rise as a result, Swenson said.

The county still will be "available to participate on an as-needed basis," Deputy County Executive Jon Schneider said yesterday.

"Given our limited staff time and limited financial resources, now's not the time for us to expand commitments on a blanket basis," he said, adding,



PHOTO BY JIM STAUBITZER

**LONG BEACH.** Television crews set up early yesterday morning at New York Avenue and the boardwalk to film an episode of USA Network's "Royal Pains." Reshma Shetty (white pants, black jacket) plays Divya Katdare and Ben Shenkman (white lab coat) plays Dr. Jeremiah Sacani.

however, "If they need us, just look east."

The committee is hoping to wrap up its outreach and send the formal agreement to members by the end of this month, Swenson said.

— EMILY NGO

**NASSAU COUNTY**

**Better prescription plan being offered**

Nassau is offering a new and better drug prescription discount plan for residents.

Today, County Executive Edward Mangano is set to announce the new plan, which will begin this week with direct mailing to all Nassau households, county agencies and pharmacies.

The program developed by the county and ProAct Inc., a pharmacy management company, will use discount cards to help lower prescription drug costs for all residents, Manga-

no said.

"Participation could not be easier," Mangano said.

"Simply present this card to receive discounts," he said, adding there will be no enrollment forms, membership fees or other costs. The card will be accepted at more than 290 Nassau County pharmacies.

The new plan's benefits will exceed the one started several years ago by previous county Comptroller Howard Weitzman.

Under the new plan, residents pay only the discount price of the drug at participating pharmacies. The old plan required an additional dispensing fee for the prescription filled. The new card can be used at 60,000 pharmacies nationwide, compared with 54,000 before. The average savings is 47 percent, compared to 20 percent in the old plan. ProAct will provide 24-hour help-desk support, compared to 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays

under the old plan. That help will be provided in 10 languages rather than just English and Spanish.

For more information, call 877-776-2285.

— SID CASSESE

**ISLANDWIDE**

**'Smart Growth' efforts to be awarded**

Vision Long Island will hold its 11th Annual Smart Growth Awards on June 15. Several individuals and organizations will be honored for their efforts concerning Long Island issues such as affordable housing, historical preservation and advances in town development.

"The 2012 Smart Growth Awards honors people and projects that are transforming Long Island's downtown," said Eric Alexander, executive director of Vision Long Island. "The work of this year's honor-

ees provides transportation, housing, energy and recreational choices to improve our local communities and the entire region."

The Town of Hempstead won for its "mixed use" zoning that allows for different types of development along Hempstead Turnpike in Elmont.

State Sen. Charles Fuschillo (R-Merrick) and Sandi Vega will be awarded in the Walkability category for their efforts in their "Complete Streets" campaign. The law, signed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo in August, requires pedestrian and cyclist safety to be considered in any road or transportation facility built with state and federal funding. Vega's daughter was killed in September 2010 while crossing Sunrise Highway in Wantagh.

Village of Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender will be awarded for her transit development plan in the Transporta-

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