

## Babylon Democrats help political donors

Recently, Newsday listed political contributions by Rechler Equity Management LLC to Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone ["\$1.8M for 2015 so far," News, Dec. 16].

As the town supervisor in Babylon, Bellone was the one who initiated plans to close the Frontier Mobile Home Park in North Amityville and allow its purchase by R Squared LLC, an affiliate of Rechler Equity Management. Bellone claimed that the park would be condemned by the county for health and safety violations, regardless of Rechler buying it.

Somehow, after 50 years of operation, this park was suddenly a hazard.

I looked into public records of political donations at elections.ny.gov and this is what I discovered: From 2011 to 2013, Rechler Equity Management donated \$24,600 to Bellone, \$15,500 to the Town of Babylon Democratic Committee, and \$7,600 to the Suffolk Democratic Committee. Rechler Equity Construction, which shares an address with the management company, donated \$10,000 to the Suffolk Democratic Committee.

The people involved in these organizations are among the same people who approved Rechler's plans, including varian-



Frontier Mobile Home Park in North Amityville, March 2011

es, for apartment buildings.

Over the past 10 years, the mobile home park has become predominantly Hispanic, and most residents are recent arrivals to the United States. They are hardworking people who want their kids to stay in their current schools, but unfortunately, they have too little political clout.

*Ruben Perez  
North Amityville*

**Editor's note:** The writer lives at the Frontier Mobile Home Park.

## How was Vince Flynn left out of 'Passings'?

I was very disappointed that Newsday did not include the author Vince Flynn in the "Passings 2013" section [Dec. 29]. Flynn wrote 14 excellent novels, most of which featured his character Mitch Rapp.

His books are politically charged thrillers, selling more than 15 million copies. Flynn had a huge following of loyal readers. He certainly is in the

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same class as Tom Clancy, whose death was noted.

*Gary Peckett  
Baldwin*

## Police need better training

I praise Newsday for its coverage of the death of Kevin Turner ["Violent end to a chase," News, Dec. 8].

It's about time that someone covers cases like these, so that police officers don't get off scot-free. I can't see how two police officers needed to beat someone so brutally to subdue him.

It's a shame that this young man lost his life simply because he ran from two officers. I hope that officers get more training on how to deal with situations like these.

*Sal Bracco  
Melville*



Community members attend a meeting at Huntington Town Hall on Dec. 10 to speak out about proposal to build affordable rental housing on Ruland Road in Melville.

## Housing and the market

I woke up from my post-Christmas Day slumber filled with a great feeling of peace and happiness, and then read Newsday ["Filing a petition," Dec. 26]. Instead of finding peace and tranquility, I read that some of our residents are complaining about three separate proposals: for an assisted living facility, over-55 apartments and loft-style apartments in Huntington, East Hampton and Islip.

Where are our senior citizens, older residents and young people supposed to live? Is not a diversity in housing options and people a strength in the character of a community?

Long Island must continue to allow our young and old to live here, and we must all work together to accomplish this goal, especially when the continued strength of our communities depends on it. I hope that our elected officials in all three towns do not pander to unfortunate and unproven opposition, and will ensure that diversity in all of its forms will be allowed to succeed in our communities.

*Mitchell H. Pally  
Stony Brook*

**Editor's note:** The writer is chief executive of the Long Island Builders Institute, a trade organization.

Affordable housing on Long Island is, and always will be, a hot-button issue ["Rental housing sorely needed," Editorial, Dec. 30]. The Town of Huntington's views on the subject are reflective of those in most areas across the Island. This is why the patchwork municipality-by-municipality approach to land use has to end.

We need to quantify our existing afford-

able-housing stock and look toward realistic solutions that do not rely solely on substantial increases in density, but balance our economic, environmental and social well-being.

We need a plan to tackle this monumental problem based on sound urban planning and up-to-date data. Our housing needs are one important piece of a larger puzzle.

The issue is regional in scope, and the solution must follow suit.

*Rich Murdocco  
Syosset*

**Editor's note:** The writer operates a website, TheFoggiestIdea.org, about land use.

Your editorial illustrates a misplaced sense of egalitarianism and the requirement for social engineering to achieve a goal. The real issue underlying the Huntington Town Board's correct opposition to the rental housing in Melville is, in fact, opposition to requiring what is essentially low-income housing in a town where the median income is far greater than that of the potential renters. Sugarcoating the fact that it is for low-income people by calling it "affordable" only diverts attention.

The type of housing should be dictated by the market. Newsday, along with proponents of this project, advocate artificial social engineering of a community and essentially the elimination of market forces from housing decisions. If rental housing is needed in Huntington, the rents should reflect people's incomes. Huntington is under no obligation, either social or moral, to engineer its population to meet some arbitrary egalitarian goal.

*Alan R. Lichtenstein  
Commack*