

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

★ Multifamily housing code change gets OK

BY SOPHIA CHANG
sophia.chang@newsday.com

The town board has approved a change to Brookhaven's multifamily housing code — and unanimously voted for a resolution to allow residents greater input on zone changes.

At Tuesday's board meeting, Medford civic leader Don Seubert criticized the multifamily housing code amendment as a gateway to overdevelopment.

"Queens and Hempstead already exist," he told the board during a public hearing on the housing code amendment. "The multifamily revision continues to pound the same communities again and again."

Sponsored by Councilman Tim Mazzei, the amendment to the multifamily housing code clarifies the types of zones that would be suitable for such housing, specifies required setbacks and specifies environmental contributions such as pine barrens credits to offset development.

Mitch Pally of the Long Island Builders Institute gave measured approval to the amendment, saying to the board that while it contains "provisions that inhibit redevelopment in places where it should occur . . . it is better

and more accessible than the current code that we have."

Councilmembers Mazzei, Dan Panico, Connie Kepert and Supervisor Edward P. Romaine voted for the amendment, while council members Jane Bonner, Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld and Kathy Walsh opposed the measure.

The board also supported a resolution that allows residents concerned about zoning applications to file protest petitions that will force the board to a supermajority vote.

Before the vote, the town board, with seven members, only required four votes to approve zoning changes in response to a protest petition.

Protest petitions can be filed in zoning change applications if 20 percent of the neighboring property owners within 100 feet of a parcel's boundary oppose the application. Now, such zoning applications will require five votes for approval.

"I think people should have a voice in land-use decisions in their neighborhoods," Romaine said after the vote.

He co-sponsored the resolution with Bonner. "That makes it a little more difficult for rezoning cases, and gives the residents far greater voices than they have now."

Cadet from LI helps save kayakers

The Associated Press

Two West Point cadets — one of them a Long Islander — are being credited with rescuing two stranded kayakers on the Hudson River.

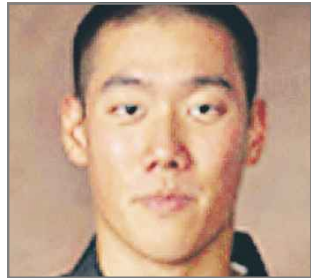
Cadet Sam Mo, of Great Neck, and Cadet Daniel Bleyl, of Tucson, Ariz., swam into the river late Wednesday after hearing the kayakers' cries for help, the U.S. Military Academy said.

Mo, a member of the class of 2016, and Bleyl, a member of the class of 2014, swam 300 to 400 yards to get to the kayakers.

The pair, both members of the Army swim team, treaded water for about 20 minutes

until help arrived. A third cadet swim team member notified emergency officials.

A power boat used by West Point's crew team helped the victims to shore. The unidentified victims were treated for exposure.



Cadet Sam Mo of Great Neck

CRIME & COURTS

FREEPORT

Gunmen pull man from car, rob him at stoplight

Five gunmen pulled a man from his car at a Freeport stoplight and robbed him of his possessions and his vehicle yesterday morning, police said, but not before they struck him in the head, bound him with duct tape, and drove around with him in the car's trunk.

The men took the 35-year-old victim out of the trunk after about 15 minutes, around 4 a.m., police said, and left him, still bound, in the rear yard of a home on Jefferson Avenue in Lakeview.

The incident began at the southbound traffic light on North Long Beach Avenue at West Seaman Avenue, Nassau police said.

Four men armed with handguns and one with a shotgun pulled him from the car and struck him, police said. After the man was left in the Lakeview yard, he was able to free himself and get to a friend's home, police said. He taken to a hospital where he was treated for cuts and released.

Detectives asked that anyone with information concerning the incident contact Nassau County Crime Stoppers at 800-244-TIPS.

SOUTHAMPTON

Man arrested on multiple drug charges after raid

Illegal drugs including heroin and cocaine were seized yesterday in the raid of

a North Sea home that led to the arrest of a suspected drug dealer, prosecutors said.

The East End Drug Task Force raided 14 Locust Ave. and executed a search warrant that "was the result of an investigation into drug sales activity in the Southampton, North Sea area," Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said in a news release.

Southampton Town Police Emergency Services Unit and the State Police K-9 unit assisted task force member agencies in the raid, authorities said.

"Inside the home . . . investigators seized heroin, cocaine, marijuana, pills, cash, as well as scales and packaging materials," Spota said in the release.

Michael Johnson, 27, who lives at the address, was arrested on multiple drug possession charges, prosecutors said. He was to be arraigned in Southampton Town Justice Court.

NEW HYDE PARK

Brooklyn man arrested in sale of stolen vehicles

A Brooklyn man has been charged with selling nine stolen vehicles to a scrap dealer in New Hyde Park, Nassau County police said yesterday.

Eric Robinson, 46, of 140 Schaefer St., was arrested Wednesday in East Meadow, police said. The vehicles had been stolen in Nassau County and New York City, police said, and Robinson had filled out and signed state paperwork last fall listing himself as the owner.

Robinson was arraigned

GET THE LATEST AT
newsday.com/crime

USE OUR INTERACTIVE
CRIME MAP

GET CRIME ALERTS
FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

yesterday in First District Court in Hempstead on multiple charges of grand larceny, offering a false instrument for filing, and criminal possession of stolen property. Bail was set at \$5,000 bond or \$2,500 cash for each of the 12 charges for a total of \$60,000 bond or \$30,000 cash, the district attorney's office said. His next court date is Tuesday.

— WILLIAM MURPHY

VALLEY STREAM

Police seek 2 masked men in armed robbery

Police are searching for two masked men who robbed a 7-Eleven at gunpoint Wednesday night in Valley Stream.

The robbery occurred about 11:40 p.m. at the 7-Eleven store on North Central Avenue, Nassau police said. Three customers and two employees were in the store. No one was hurt.

Police said the two robbers, one wearing a black jacket, the other wearing a green jacket, took cash, then fled on foot. Police ask anyone with information to call Crime Stoppers at 800-244-TIPS. All calls will remain confidential.

— JOHN VALENTI

GUILTY PLEA IN LI STEROIDS DISTRIBUTION

BY ROBERT E. KESSLER
robert.kessler@newsday.com

A Florida man, who authorities said was making \$1 million a year distributing drugs on Long Island and in New York City, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Central Islip to conspiracy to illegally distribute steroids and distributing steroids, according to officials.

When Gregory Kovar, 48, of Miami Beach, was arrested last June, authorities also charged him with distributing oxycodone and cocaine. But as part of a plea bargain, those charges

were dropped, according to officials. Under federal guidelines, Kovar could face from 121 to 151 months in prison at sentencing.

At the time of Kovar's arrest, federal prosecutor Burton Ryan said Kovar was "a career drug dealer," who had originally lived in College Point. Kovar moved to Florida in 2007 after serving about 90 days in prison for distribution of steroids in Queens, Ryan said.

Kovar's ring operated a number of "laboratories" in New York and Miami in which chemicals were imported from overseas, blended with other chemi-

cals, and the resulting mixture poured into vials, Ryan has said. On the vials were counterfeit labels of actual steroids.

"Some were counterfeit, some adulterated, and some were fake," the indictment said of the steroids. None of the chemicals were approved for sale in the United States, the indictment said.

Kovar made a brief statement to federal Magistrate William Wall acknowledging his crimes. Kovar's attorney, Rick Haley, of Islandia, declined to comment, as did Ryan, an Eastern District assistant U.S. attorney.