

\$1.7M grant for sewer project

Westhampton Beach hoping for economic gains

BY JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA
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A newly awarded \$1.7 million state grant is expected to help Westhampton Beach officials pay for the construction of a long-awaited sewer project that village and local business groups hope will be an economic generator for the village.

Westhampton Beach was one of more than 180 communities across New York State that received more than \$146 million in grants for water structure im-

provements, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Wednesday. The state Environmental Facilities Corp. awarded the village the grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, which helps provide grants to local municipalities to help them pay for water-quality infrastructure for both drinking water and sewage treatment projects.

Village Mayor Maria Moore said the grant will help pay for construction costs related to the sewer project, which is projected to cost between \$13 million and \$14 million.

The project will connect the village's Main Street business district and two condominium complexes to Suffolk County's wastewater treatment plant at Gabreski Airport. Once com-

pleted, the sewers are projected to eliminate about 5,000 pounds of nitrogen that enter village waterways, according to a village-commissioned study. In addition, the sewers would help the village meet the county's sanitary code requirements — which restrict development in the area due to a lack of sewers — and clear the way for more apartments over stores, restaurants and a small boutique hotel.

Moore said the new development "will certainly entice people to come to the village to come and eat and stay over."

The village expects to place the sewer project out to bid this spring and start construction in late fall. Construction is expected to last up to 18

months, and Moore said it is expected to be "less intrusive" than the ongoing multimillion-dollar Main Street improvement project.

Ari Goodman, president of the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce, said Friday that the chamber envisions the sewer project being an asset that will generate more business for local merchants and the village.

"It will help bring more people into the area because there will be more places to stay, more restaurants and that, in turn, will not only help the restaurants, but people will come into town and help all the businesses in town," Goodman said. "So, we feel it's a 'win-win' for everybody."

LIRR: TEMPORARY TIMETABLE CHANGES COMING IN JANUARY

Starting Jan. 6, the Long Island Rail Road will have new timetables going into effect into March that will affect branches in Babylon, Far Rockaway, Hempstead, West Hempstead, Long Beach, Port Jefferson, Port Washington and Ronkonkoma.

The changes are being made because of Amtrak's ongoing work on infrastructure improvements at Penn Station and will affect at least seven morning rush trains and six evening rush trains, Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials announced Friday.

There will be other temporary schedule changes as well. Among them: During off-peak hours, work that the LIRR is doing to overhaul the Lynbrook station, and to add a third track to the Main Line between Floral Park and Hicksville, will result in schedule adjustments on Main Line and South Shore branches.

"We've worked hard to provide the best possible options for the least amount of disruption while this critical work continues," said LIRR president Phillip Eng in a statement.

Service is expected to return to normal after March 8, officials said. For details on the changes, go to the MTA's website at mta.info/mta/lirr.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA



Life's hopping at the beach

Vivian Santiago of Hicksville cheers on her daughter Luna, 7, as she plays hopscotch in the sand at Field 5 on Jones Beach in Wantagh during Sunday's sunny weather.

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CORRECTION

The Risolo Family lives at 31 Brockmeyer Dr. in Massapequa. The address was incorrect in Sunday's LI Life Holiday Lights story.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1913 The Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

1948 Former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

1954 The first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

1986 The experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first nonstop, nonrefueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

1995 A fire in Dabwali, India, killed 446 people, more than half of them children, during a year-end party being held near the children's school.

1997 A federal jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder.

2001 Time magazine named New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani its Person of the Year for his steadfast response to the 9/11 terrorist attack.