

## Mastics/Moriches



### Hate graffiti in Mastic

About 40 vehicles on Gores Drive in Mastic were targeted with graffiti last week, according to Suffolk County police.

The graffiti included racially offensive language and crude sexual references, among other things. An investigation by the Suffolk County Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit is ongoing.

Suffolk Police Commissioner Richard Dormer said the incident would be pursued. "We are taking this case very seriously and investigating it vigorously," he said. "Messages of hate will not be tolerated in Suffolk County."

### John Pizzarelli swings

On Saturday, Nov. 29 at 8 p.m. international jazz guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli and his band will perform for one night only at the Bay Street Theatre. Likened to *The Nat King Cole Trio*, Pizzarelli's recent release *With a Song in My Heart: John Pizzarelli Sings the Music of Richard Rodgers* marks the latest chapter in a career that spans more than 25 years.

Pizzarelli began playing guitar at age 6, following in the tradition of his legendary guitar-playing father, Bucky Pizzarelli. By the age of 20 they were playing together, and since 1992 *The John Pizzarelli Trio* has been traveling the world over. In 1993 the *Trio* opened for Frank Sinatra's international tour.

Tickets for the 5 p.m. radio show interview are \$25, while tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are \$75. A special offer for both is available by calling the box office at 725-9500. Check out the full schedule at [www.baystreet.org](http://www.baystreet.org).

### BNL issues report

The U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory has issued its 2007 Site Environmental Report. Highlights include significant progress on the environmental cleanup of the site, recognition of pollution prevention initiatives, and reduced environmental effluents and emissions.

Environmental program highlights for 2007 include the following:

- The laboratory continues its successful reductions in the number and severity of spills on site. In 2007, the total number of spills was reduced by 22 percent, from 27 spills in 2006 to 21 in 2007.
- Wastewater discharges from Brookhaven's sewage treatment plant were within the typical range of historical levels and were well below New York state drinking water standards.
- The maximum on-site concentration of Cs-137 in deer in 2007 was 17 times lower than the highest level reported in 2006 and much lower than the highest level ever reported a decade ago, in 1996, indicating the effectiveness of soil cleanup work on site.

To obtain a copy of the summary booklet and an accompanying CD containing the full report, call 344-3711. Copies are also available for review at public libraries near Brookhaven. ■

—Mark Nolan

# Grant awarded for Forge River

Brookhaven Town receives \$100,000 to continue pollution reduction project

The town of Brookhaven has been awarded a \$100,000 state grant to address water quality issues in the Forge River, according to Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Peter A. Scully, who also serves as chairman of the town's Forge River Protection Task Force. The grant was awarded through the Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to fund the next step towards the development of a pollution reduction project to improve water quality in the Forge.

"Thanks to the vocal concerns of local citizens and the town's leadership in establishing the task force, all levels of government are now working together to address longstanding water quality issues affecting the Forge River," said Scully. "Step by step, we are beginning to create a pathway towards a cleaner future for the Forge River."

Scully praised local elected officials and the agencies and organizations which make up the town's task force for working cooperatively to piece together the resources necessary to develop a long-term plan to save the Forge River. He singled out the town's Planning and Environmental Divisions and the Suffolk County Department of Health as key contributors.

"While the task force is made up of a diverse group of stakeholders who sometimes disagree on certain issues, each and every member agrees on the need to address the sources of pollution which have impacted the river," said Scully. "Our elected officials deserve credit for supporting the efforts of the task force and for making staff and other resources available to perform the research now underway, which is the first step towards addressing the problems we have identified."

The funding will be used to advance a Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL) analysis that was started by Brookhaven in 2006 when the town received an earlier state grant of \$238,000 to complete a Watershed Management Plan. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

The analysis will result in the creation of a plan to reduce and limit nitrogen



Brookhaven Town recently received a \$100,000 grant to continue a pollution reduction project. ADV/File photo

discharges to the river and address both the short-term actions and long-term strategies needed to protect and restore the Forge River watershed. The primary goals will be to characterize the watershed and the problems that afflict it, and to develop a set of readily implemented and cost-effective actions that can begin the process of ecological restoration.

The Forge River has had a history of water quality problems and is listed by DEC as an "Impaired Water Body" because of excessive nitrogen, pathogens, and low levels of dissolved oxygen which have resulted in occasional fish die-offs in recent years. The major contributor to this pollution—excessive nitrogen—comes from stormwater discharges, residential cesspools, wastewater from an active duck farm, atmospheric deposition, and the river's sediments which were deposited during decades of extensive duck farming that employed minimal waste treatment.

In addition to DEC's role on the task force, the agency has undertaken a series of steps to improve water quality in the Forge River. In 2004, DEC and the Suffolk District Attorney's Office teamed up on a joint investigation that

culminated in the arrest of the owner of the Jurgielewicz Duck Farm for violations related to discharges to West Mill Pond. In February 2005, DEC announced that the company had agreed to a suspended civil penalty of \$600,000, and had signed an agreement to clean up West Mill Pond. An estimated 32,000 cubic yards of duck waste were removed in the cleanup. In 2007, DEC issued new permit requirements for the duck farm to reduce biological pollutant discharges into the headwaters of the Forge River by 70 percent. The permit will require that the farm construct a new, state-of-the-art treatment facility.

In addition, the federal government, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recently completed a reconnaissance study of the Forge River, and is working cooperatively with the task force on a Feasibility Study of potential actions to address the pollution problems in the river.

A complete list of the 2008-09 for Environmental Protection Fund's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant awards may be found on the Department of State's Web site at [www.dos.state.ny.us](http://www.dos.state.ny.us). ■

# Town budget passed

Community Enhancement Grants cut

By LINDA LEUZZI

The Brookhaven Town Board adopted the 2009 budget last week, reducing the general fund spending from \$165.2 million to \$164.7 million and setting the tax rate from \$21.67 to \$21.61 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

But the amendments and cuts to the preliminary budget, submitted by the Republican majority, which took three hours to review and vote on, weren't devoid of heated discussion. That included Highway Commissioner John Rouse, who stormed to the public speaking table at 6 p.m. holding a shovel for emphasis, with about 50 highway workers in the audience looking on in support.

"I do not frequent the room and get involved with political wrangling," Rouse said. "But I'm compelled to speak regarding the safety of the

employees. Two days ago I was handed a list of changes. This budget called for the layoff of six employees."

Rouse also spoke about other cuts, including \$200,000 from an auto parts budget. "I have a welding shop that's in the dark ages," Rouse said. "You took \$1 million out of the best snow removal department in the state and are putting employees at risk." Rouse raised the shovel for emphasis. "Mr. Mazzei, I am giving you a snow shovel because when the snow starts flying, you'll have to shovel your district out," he said.

But Brookhaven Town Majority Leader Timothy P. Mazzei, who addressed the crowd earlier stating that highway layoffs were a rumor of misunderstanding and lies, countered that funds would be available and that the jobs were secure. "We're giving him more than in 2007 and (more) just

in case," Mazzei said. "He'll have \$5 million in surplus plus another \$2 million in reserve."

Besides highway part-town, budget contingency reserves were established for three other major funds; general fund, part-town, and highway town-wide. Access to the budget contingency funds, justified by commissioners, would be made via Town Board resolution.

"The six positions in the highway department were slated to be eliminated until 5 o'clock this afternoon," said Brookhaven Supervisor Brian X. Foley during a break.

Cuts in the amended final budget included community enhancement grants, the youth bureau department in the Supervisor's office, funding for the Brookhaven Arts Council, remov-