

HICKSVILLE NEWS

Serving the Greater Hicksville Area

Vol. 31, No. 36

WWW.HICKSVILLENEWS.COM

AUGUST 2 - 8, 2017

SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER OFFER INSIDE

\$1.00

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Taking A Look At Solar Eclipses



Hicksville residents can view a total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. (Photo by Mark Margolis/Rainbow Symphony)

BY NICOLE ROSENTHAL

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During the late morning hours of Aug. 21, an unusual event will take place—the sun will completely disappear behind the moon, resulting in rapid temperature drops and a bright white ring in the middle of a dark “night” sky. Dubbed “The Great American Solar Eclipse,” this phenomenon will occur between 9 and 11 a.m. and can be viewed from Long Island backyards. In recognition of this rare occurrence, and in attempt to educate the public on total solar eclipses, the Hicksville Library recently offered a unique program on Tuesday, July 25, to give community members insight into the upcoming celestial event.

see SOLAR ECLIPSE on page 4

WHAT'S INSIDE: Landscape Art



Old Westbury Gardens' exhibit features sculptures by Seward Johnson.

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Vacation & Travel

Taking Stock Of The Town

Going in right direction, Saladino claims

BY FRANK RIZZO

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A few days shy of his sixth anniversary in office, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino looked at the state of the town and pronounced it...improving.

“Sunlight was needed, and we shined the light on all town functions,” he affirmed.

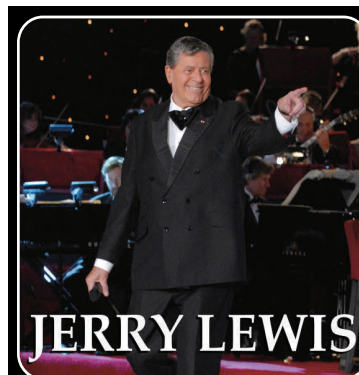
The state of the town address, reportedly the first in recent memory, took place near the start of the July 25

board meeting.

“I am proud of the many milestones this town board and our dedicated workforce have reached in streamlining operations, restoring the public’s trust and enhancing transparency while delivering important services in a fiscally-sound way,” Saladino stated.

He continued his blunt assessment of the regime of his predecessor, John Venditto: “The past year was one of embarrassment in our town’s history books.”

see SALADINO on page 6



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ESTABLISHED 1986

Successor to the Mid-Island Herald, founded by Fred Noeth, 01/29/49
Karl V. Anton, Jr., Publisher, Anton Community Newspapers, 1984-2000

Publication Office: 132 East Second St., Mineola, NY 11501

Phone: (516) 747-8282 • Fax: (516) 742-5867

www.hicksvillenews.com

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Hicksville News (USPS 346-720)

Postmaster: Send address changes to Long Island Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 1578, Mineola, N.Y. 11501. Entered as periodicals postage paid at the Post Office at Mineola, N.Y. and additional mailing offices under the Act of Congress. Published 51 weeks with a double issue the last week of the year by Long Island Community Newspapers, 132 East Second St., Mineola, N.Y. 11501 (P.O. Box 1578). Phone: 516-747-8282. Price per copy is \$1.00. Annual subscription rate is \$26 in Nassau County.

SOLAR ECLIPSE from page 1

"I think that it is an important part of the library's role in the community to disseminate information and to be an educational source," said Cultural Program Specialist Roseanne Acosta.

"Astronomy is included under the umbrella of STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math], which is at the forefront of education, and the library is an advocate for several STEM resources and programs."

While the sun will theoretically be covered in totality by the moon, New York will only see 70 percent totality as we are not directly in the path of the eclipse; therefore, observing the sun is cautioned. According to NASA, the only safe way to look directly at a partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as eclipse glasses. Homemade filters and ordinary sunglasses are deemed unsafe.

"The exciting thing about this year's total solar eclipse (TSE) in August is where it is," said amateur astronomer and educator Karel Bott, who spoke at the library's July 25 program. "Frequently, TSEs happen in places you can't simply get in your car and drive to since the earth is mostly covered by ocean, [where] the frequency of the moon's shadow to fall over the ocean is highest. Eclipse enthusiasts around the world from all countries pay thousands of dollars

and use up all their vacation time to fly, boat, helicopter or whatever it takes to get into that narrow 70-mile wide band of the moon's shadow and experience a TSE...but it's such a breathtaking experience that once you've experienced a TSE, you will try again and again to see another one. On Aug. 21, people in the US can simply watch the weather reports, stick a key in the ignition and drive to the path of the moon's shadow where it is most likely to be clear skies."

The festivities within the library community have not only prompted excitement for the celestial event on Aug. 21, but have provoked a general astronomical interest in the public as well.

"Rosanne and I are looking to start an ongoing astronomy education program at the library," continued Bott. "She and I began talking about what that would look like and what the patrons would want and benefit from. I am super excited to provide whatever type of ongoing weekly class, periodical presentations on upcoming celestial events and meteor showers, star tours, telescope clinics and more. I am also trying to get a telescope donated to the library which could be borrowed by the patrons like a book. The borrow-a-telescope program is extremely popular in places it has already been implemented."

For more information on upcoming programs at the Hicksville Library, call 516-931-1417.



Total solar eclipses should be viewed through special-purpose "eclipse glasses" or hand-held solar viewers that meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products. (Photo by Kate Russo, Being in the Shadow)



A total solar eclipse

(Photo courtesy Rick Fienberg / TravelQuest International / Wilderness Travel)

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