

Sam Glass Gets Green Light

BY DANIEL OFFNER

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Last week, Farmingdale village officials approved a special use permit to allow for mixed use development at 155 Main St., currently home to the nostalgic toy and hobby shop, The Land of Ooh's and Oz.

According to Farmingdale Mayor Ralph Ekstrand, the project will entail the demolition of an old dilapidated building behind the retail storefront, renovations to the 6,153 square-foot of retail space and construction of 14 studio apartments on the back lot.

But, in order to erect a new residential building, the village requires that sufficient parking be provided for its tenants. At the meeting on Aug. 4, property owner Samuel Glass, agreed to provide 17 parking spaces for residents on the ground level, using the top two floors for the one-bedroom apartments. Once construction is complete, Glass plans



to lease the one bedroom studios at current market value.

"He will not be changing the size of the building," Ekstrand said, stressing that the construction will look very similar to the offices at 399 Conklin St., which he referred to as a building on stilts.

While Glass would agree to provide parking for potential tenants, he would opt to waive 14 of the 15 required commercial parking spaces,

paying the village \$5,000 for one parking spot.

Traditionally, village officials will waive commercial parking requirements due to the number of municipal parking spaces available.

However, while Glass has said he plans to renovate the interior and exterior facade of the retail building, it remains unclear if he has any other plans for the Land of Ooh's and Oz, as of press time.



No Cell Towers For Jewish Center

BY DANIEL OFFNER

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Four years after the Hempstead Town Board of Appeals denied a proposal to construct six T-Mobile transmitters on the roof of the Farmingdale-Wantagh Jewish Center along Woodbine Avenue, a federal district court decision, on July 22, dismissed the case.

"The court's decision to dismiss this case signifies another crucial victory for Hempstead Town and Wantagh neighbors," said Town Supervisor Kate Murray. "The proposal never conformed to the character of this cherished suburban community, and we're thrilled that our preservation efforts have been rewarded."

In 2010, the town hired Richard Comi, a consultant with the Center for

Peaceful Practice Comes To Library

BY MARLO JAPPEN

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If you've never heard of Falun Dafa, you're not alone. Instructor Suzanne Eckler said it's not widely practiced in Long Island, but she and her assistant William Jin are offering a series of six free classes at the Farmingdale Library on Thursday nights.



Falun Dafa instructor Suzanne Eckler helps students with their poses.

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"When something makes you happy, you want to share it," Eckler said.

Falun Dafa is a meditation practice that originated in China in 1992.

It involves five sets of exercises and it emphasizes virtues such as truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance.

"I don't know much about this," said Marie-Laetitia, 60, of Farmingdale. "I'm an avid practitioner of yoga and Tai Chi so I was very excited when I found out that the library was offering this class for free."

The class of eight gently raised their arms above their head to form an arc as relaxing music played in the background.

"They are all doing very well," Eckler said to her partner. "They learn very quickly."

She and Jin walked around the room to help attendees strike the proper pose. Jin said that Falun Dafa benefits practitioner's health.

"Before I practiced Falun Dafa I had stomach aches," Jin said. "After I practice, I feel relaxed and my health is getting better."

For Eckler, the practice helps her emotionally. Eckler was in a bad state after her mother passed away, so she sought out the advice of a homeopathic doctor who recommended that she try out Falun Dafa. And she has been practicing ever since, for the last 13 years.



Suzanne Eckler and her assistant William Jin show the class how to do the Falun Standing Stance at the Farmingdale Library.

"I wouldn't be here today without Falun Dafa," she said.

Falun Dafa was once widespread in China with over 100 million people practitioners. However, since 1999 practitioners have been persecuted, abducted, tortured, imprisoned, and killed by the Chinese government, and persecutions are still happening today.

"Falun Dafa makes you strong and fearless," Eckler said. "But, the Communist party in China wants people to live under fear."

The practice has since reached the United States where it is taught free of charge.

"I found the practice to be very invigorating because I'm very stressed," Marie-Laetitia said. "I think I'm going to be hooked on this."

NEWS BRIEF

Telephonics Corp. Wins \$13M Air Force Contract

U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer recently announced that the Telephonics Corporation in Farmingdale has received a \$13.2 million contract award from the United States Air Force Material Command to produce the latest civil and military modes of air surveillance and identification.

Specifically, Telephonics has received this award to produce the UPX-40 Identification Fraud or Foe (IFF) Interrogator, with Mode 5 and Mode S, for the NATO AWACS Program Management Agency (NAPMA). Work is expected to be completed in Huntington and Farmingdale.

Mode 5 and Mode S are the latest civil and military modes for air surveillance and identification, respectively. Mode 5 is a secure mode that employs new NSA-certified encryption capabilities, ensuring that only "friends" can be identified as such. Mode S is an enhancement to the civil airspace, enabling the aircraft transponder to provide additional data such as unique ID, bearing, heading and air speed to the controllers.

"This contract will allow Telephonics the opportunity to continue to excel as a world leader in providing innovative radar technology to the U.S. Air Force and NATO forces," said Schumer. "This essential system will help NATO operators ensure the positive identification of friends and civilian aircraft in our skies, and at

the same time will bolster this Long Island company and support over one thousand jobs."

"Telephonics is proud to continue to support the U.S. Air Force and NATO with the world's most advanced Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Interrogators. This contract for the delivery of UPX-40 IFF Interrogators with Mode 5 and Mode S to upgrade our legacy systems, validates the excellent performance and high quality of the products we have delivered over the last 30 years" said Mr. Joseph J. Battaglia, President and CEO of Telephonics Corporation.

Telephonics Corporation is located in Suffolk County and is a subsidiary of Griffon Corporation. Telephonics employs over 1,300 people and specializes in advanced sensor and communication systems technology serving Aerospace, Defense and Commercial markets.

Long Island has a rich history in defense and aerospace. The Apollo Lunar Module was designed, built and tested on Long Island. During the Cold War, many of the America's fighter aircrafts were designed and assembled on Long Island. A 2008 Long Island Forum for Technology study, commissioned by the New York State Department of Labor, found there to be 830 companies, employing an estimated 30,000 people, that do at least some work for defense aerospace or homeland security markets.

— Submitted by Marisa Kaufman

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Municipal Solutions, to ensure that any of the company's new wireless communications would be sited in a location with the least negative impact on the community.

After listening to the suggestions and comments of residents in both the Farmingdale and Wantagh communities, the Board of Appeals rejected the proposal. In response the telecommunications company challenged the town's decision in court.

Town officials would later join with neighbors to express concern over the potential impact cell towers would have on local property values and the suburban character of the community.

"I'm proud to join with Wantagh neighbors in celebrating this important victory," said Town Councilwoman Angie Cullin.

Town officials also gave praise for having one of the nation's toughest wireless communications laws permissible by the federal government and enabling residents to have

a powerful voice when it comes to dealing with big corporations in their communities.

"This culminates a long effort against the unwanted proposal of a telecommunications giant in this proud residential community," Town Councilman Gary Hudes added.

But while the town continues to laud the federal court's dismissal as a victory, according to the federal court's decision, it was ultimately the decision of T-Mobile to dismiss the case. In addition, the court ruled that each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

"While this victory is sweet, we'll continue to remain vigilant in the face of other potentially troublesome cell antenna applications in our communities, as well as other quality-of-life issues," Murray said. "I thank the neighbors of Wantagh for their hard work and tireless efforts in preserving the suburban nature of our communities, and we'll continue to do everything we can to maintain our neighborhoods as great places in which to live, work and raise a family."