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# THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

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Stratton Schellinger and Ray Harden are the new owners of Ben Krupinski Builder.

JD ALLEN

## State Gives School Septics Grant

Springs will get \$1.33 million

BY MICHAEL WRIGHT

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Monday that the state will give the Springs School a \$1.33 million grant to help fund the replacement of the school's crumbling septic system with one that filters out nitrogen.

The grant money, which will come from a \$2.5 billion clean water infrastructure fund that the governor's office created last year, likely would cover nearly all of the projected costs of replacing the school's septic system as recommended by wastewater engineer Pio Lombardo.

In February, the State Department of Environmental Conservation rejected an application by the school for a \$1.75 million grant—which included the \$1.32 million cost of the new septic system, plus “contingencies”—because of what the state said was a misunderstanding due to a spelling error: The body of water near the school, Accabonac Harbor, was misspelled and thus not found in a search of a list of impaired water bodies. The governor's grant award would appear to make up for that error.

See **GRANT**, Page A7

## BUSINESS WILL GO ON

After Ben Krupinski's death, two loyal employees plan to honor his legacy

BY JD ALLEN

Two longtime employees have taken over the Ben Krupinski Builder construction company after the death of its founder, who was killed on June 2 when his private plane crashed into the ocean about a mile off Indian Wells Beach in Amagansett.

Ben Krupinski's wife, Bonnie Krupinski, and their grandson, William Maerov, also died in the plane crash, as did the pilot, Jon Kenneth Dollard of Hamp-

ton Bays.

Stratton Schellinger of Sag Harbor and Ray Harden of East Hampton acquired the South Fork, New York and Connecticut luxury home builder in a private arrangement, as of June 30.

They both worked their way up the ladder from construction to supervisory positions for Mr. Krupinski for 31 and 16 years, respectively, and the transition was set in motion after years of planning, they said Friday in an interview at the children's wing of the East Hampton

Library, which their late employer finished building in 2014, donating millions of dollars in labor for the project.

“The goal of this transition is to have as little change as possible,” Mr. Schellinger said. “Ben wanted the business to go on. We talked about this for years, and we want to deliver the same quality workmanship with the same aggressive and organized leadership that we always have had—but also looking for new, innovative ways to better our projects. That is what Ben always did, and

we are going to carry that on.”

Mr. Schellinger started working with Mr. Krupinski right out of high school, after a few minor jobs in construction. “I remember the first day I went to work for Ben,” he recalled. “It was so organized and aggressive and full of energy. I knew this is where I wanted to be and this is who I wanted to learn from.”

Mr. Harden had worked for Mr. Krupinski under G.B.D. Builders, a for-

See **KRUPINSKI**, Page A10

## LIPA May Build A Substation In Wainscott

Growing power needs fuel plan for facility

BY MIKE WRIGHT

The Long Island Power Authority says it may need to construct a new power substation in Wainscott by 2026, part of a more than \$400 million expansion of transmission lines that could be needed to meet growing power demand.

But the utility said this week that anticipation of a need for a new substation is not connected to the ever-broadening plans for offshore wind power generation, as skeptics about the looming Deepwater Wind project have suggested. A spokesman said it would only be necessary if the current forecasts of expansion of electrical demand on the South Fork prove accurate.

“The need for the substation

See **LIPA**, Page A10



Eli Walker, front, teaches a Drunk Yoga class over Memorial Day weekend. COURTESY OF ELI WALKER

## BEND, BUT DON'T SPILL

Wine and yoga combine to create a welcoming environment

BY BEN KAVA

In September 2017, Eli Walker was working as a bartender at the Grey Lady, a bar in New York City. Now, less than a year later, she is the proud founder and owner of Drunk Yoga—a company aiming to unite a celebration of wine with the meditative exercise.

While she has conducted only a couple of classes locally—on Memorial Day weekend at Ruschmeyer's in Montauk, and on July 8 at the Grey Lady's eastern outpost in Montauk—she hopes to offer more.

The classes, she said, help to foster a welcoming environment to both yoga enthu-

See **YOGA**, Page A5

## Town Approves Water Line Contract

Wainscott should get service this fall

BY JON WINKLER

The Suffolk County Water Authority hopes to begin installing new water mains in Wainscott within the next few weeks, laying out its plans to both the Town of East Hampton and the Wainscott

community as part of the town's effort to deal with contaminated water wells.

Last Thursday, July 5, the East Hampton Town Board approved an agreement with the SCWA

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Joseph Pokorny, deputy CEO for operations of the Suffolk County Water Authority, speaking at the Wainscott CAC meeting on Saturday.

JON WINKLER

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Ray Harden and Stratton Schellinger are the new owners of Ben Krupinski Builder.

JD ALLEN

## KRUPINSKI: Building Firm Changes Hands

FROM PAGE A1

mer iteration of Mr. Krupinski's building company. Then Mr. Harden supplied Mr. Krupinski's job sites for many years when he was the manager of Riverhead Building Supply.

"I eventually wanted to be around and work with that man as much as possible, so I asked him about a job one day—and the rest is history," he added.

There are 150 carpenters among other contractors who work on projects for the building company, which has two offices on the South Fork, in Southampton and East Hampton, and an office in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, building luxury homes and completing renovation projects throughout New York and Connecticut.

Each job has one or two foremen and supervisors on site, too, which included Mr. Krupinski whenever possible.

"Ben was always about the customer," Mr. Schellinger said. "He would visit every job, every day of the week. Saturday, Sunday—it didn't matter. He would take Bonnie to a job site, and leave a voicemail at the front

desk with notes for the supervisor."

He and Mr. Harden would often spend their weekends on job sites, too, following their boss's lead, he noted.

Mr. Harden recalled a time when Mr. Krupinski sent him to check a project during Superstorm Sandy in 2012 before he headed home for the day.

"It was getting pretty hairy out, and it was kind of out of the way," he said. "But I got there, and the property had a huge driveway down to the house and the water. The wind was howling—I mean howling. The house was fine, but when I was going to get out of there, a tree on the driveway started to blow over toward the driveway and fell the other way. Thank God it went the other way or I would have been stuck there until the spring when someone came to find me!"

All told, Mr. Harden said he would do it again in a heartbeat, and he said he has gone out of his way to visit every job site because it was what Mr. Krupinski would do.

"He always said, 'We work. That's just what we do,'" Mr.

Harden recalled. "Attention to detail is a huge, huge thing. Ben was always about the details and making sure things were done correctly and on time. So we want to continue to deliver that product. He instilled that in us, and we want to carry that forward."

Since 1986, many of Mr. Krupinski's building projects have become landmarks on the South Fork. He built the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, renovated Guild Hall in East Hampton, built the children's wing of East Hampton Library, rebuilt Scoville Hall in Amagansett, and restored the George Fowler House in Springs, in addition to building homes for musician Billy Joel, celebrity chef Martha Stewart, and supermodel and businesswoman Christie Brinkley.

"Our clients want their privacy," Mr. Schellinger said. "They don't want people to know what they are doing and what they are building. We will do whatever it takes to keep that privacy, even if we have to put someone out front to keep someone from walking in. People seem to think that they are entitled to enter a

property or a job site whenever they want. It's an ongoing and constant effort."

When tackling what's next for the company, Mr. Harden said that the goal is to finish up the scores of projects undertaken by Mr. Krupinski, which are at various stages of development. He also noted that a few more projects have been taken on since Mr. Krupinski's death. Mr. Schellinger added that the firm hasn't lost any clients or staff during the transition process.

"It's truly business as usual," he said.

Christopher Quinn will continue to manage builds in Manhattan, Westchester and Connecticut. Justin Fulweiler will continue to manage builds in Southampton. Mr. Schellinger and Mr. Harden will operate out of the building company's headquarters in East Hampton.

The hospitality businesses owned by Ben and Bonnie Krupinski, including East Hampton Point, the 1770 House and Cittanova, will continue to be owned by the family or with partners, according to Suzze Foster, a spokeswoman for the family's businesses.

## LIPA: New Substation Planned For Wainscott

FROM PAGE A1

is strictly for customer load demand and not for interconnection of the offshore wind project or delivery of its energy," LIPA spokesperson Sid Nathan said on Monday. "Fortunately, the immediate need to build transmission projects, such as the Wainscott substation, is delayed due to the combined effect of the South Fork offshore wind farm, energy storage and energy-saving initiatives, such as the South Fork Peak Savers program. It is also a possibility that it may not be necessary at all."

The plans for a substation are part of a broader extension of electrical transmission east of Riverhead, which the utility has estimated at costing more than \$600 million, according to projections in its 2017 operating budget.

The overall initiative would extend a 138-kilovolt underground transmission cable from Riverhead to the envisioned Wainscott substation. Whereas LIPAs 2017 budget forecasts the full project, the 2018 LIPA budget only included appropriations for the \$191 million extension of the 138-kilovolt cable as far as the Shinnecock Canal, a project expected to be completed in 2021, and the extension of smaller 69-kilovolt cables between existing substations at the canal and in Southampton, and from Bridgehampton to East Hampton.

LIPA has yet to identify a site for a Wainscott substation and would have to purchase the land on which to construct it.

At a Town Board work session on July 3, East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc said that he was hopeful that the arrival of wind-generated electricity on the South Fork and regional efforts at reducing electrical demand through energy efficiency initiatives and the expansion of local solar generation, could head off the need for the extensive expansion of transmission capacity to the area.

Some have seen an ulterior motive in LIPAs plans, saying that the substation would seem better suited for distributing power brought ashore from offshore wind farms—which are still not officially proposed—and sending it west to the rest of Long Island.

"The new Wainscott substation will be 138 kilovolts—twice the size of the existing Buell Lane substation. A new underground cable, also rated to 138 kilovolts, is planned to carry power from Wainscott to western Suffolk County," said Simon

Kinsella, a Wainscott resident who has mounted a campaign in recent months to flesh out the cost impact of the planned South Fork Wind Farm to LIPA and PSEG ratepayers.

"Supervisor Van Scoyoc claims that [the new cable will] carry power in the opposite direction. But if this were true then the 138-kilovolt cable would bring power to the existing substations, which are the hubs for electrical distribution. The new 138-kilovolt cable is to carry power from a much larger wind farm."

Mr. Kinsella points to other power supply agencies' forecasts that anticipate more offshore wind farms off the South Fork river power ashore, including one referred to as "South Fork Wind Farm" that is referenced in a power transmission project queue cataloged by the New York Independent System Operator, the quasi-public nonprofit that manages the state's energy market.

East Hampton Town and the East Hampton Town Trustees currently are considering requests from Deepwater Wind to bring the power cable from the planned South Fork Wind Farm ashore in Wainscott, and connect it to the East Hampton substation near Buell Lane. The Town Board will hold a new discussion of the lease agreement on Tuesday, July 17.

The Deepwater project, which will be 12 to 15 turbines, has been said to have a 90-megawatt capacity. But skeptics have said they expect that if permission for the Wainscott cable landing is granted, more cables from additional turbines that are only conceptual now, will aim for Wainscott's shoreline also.

The state has set a goal of receiving some 2,400 megawatts of power from renewable energy. The state's renewable energy agency has identified two areas in the ocean off the New York Bight for the construction of hundreds of turbines, which would most likely send power ashore on western Long Island and New York City.

But Deepwater Wind has said the expense of seafloor it has leased from the federal government southeast of Block Island could ultimately support more than 200 wind turbines. The company has already inked a supply contract with Rhode Island for 50 turbines in the same vicinity.

Two other companies, Vineyard Wind and Orsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, have leased vast areas of seafloor in the same area.

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## Preservation Society Creates New Award

Group will honor restoration efforts in village

BY JON WINKLER

The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton announced the establishment of the Historic Preservation Award last week.

The award is meant to honor special projects that focus on preservation, rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction that protect the historic character of the village and its surrounding communities, according to a press release. An annual award will be chosen by a committee created by the society and presented at its annual members meeting in the fall.

"All of us have watched sadly as we've seen charming, old buildings razed to make way for much less architecturally ap-

pealing structures," said Georgia de Havenon, chairwoman of the nominating committee.

"Historic properties anchor the character of the village and, unfortunately, not all such buildings fall within the protections of designated historic districts."

"As a way to honor and promote a sense of community, awards for historic preservation and restoration projects are a time honored tradition throughout our country," said John McGuirk III, chairman of the preservation society. "We saw an opportunity to help promote this community value on the local level."

Those interested in submitting an application can go to [villagepreservationsociety.org](http://villagepreservationsociety.org) for more information.

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