

services department's mental health and chemical dependency office.

Since becoming a state-certified overdose responder program in October 2012, the office has trained nearly 4,700 civilians throughout the county to save the life of someone overdosing.

Heroin and prescription painkillers accounted for 190 deaths last year in Nassau, the news release said. A 2006 state law allows citizens to administer Narcan to try to save a life without fear of liability.

Narcan is administered through a nasal spray and is provided free to trainees over 18.

"I believe we can all possibly benefit, and save a life, by being trained in Narcan," Salina said in the news release.

— SID CASSESE

SMITHTOWN

Program for walking, biking to school

The Town of Smithtown Youth Bureau and Commack School District plan to work together to administer an adult-supervised program that encourages children to walk or bike to school.

Officials met Wednesday at Commack High School to brainstorm ways to administer the Safe Routes to School program, which aims to promote safety training and education, physical activity and safe walking and cycling routes at four Commack schools.

Included were: John Mandracchia-Sawmill Intermediate School, Wood Park Primary

School, Indian Hollow Primary School and North Ridge Primary School.

In spring 2014, the youth bureau was awarded a grant for the program worth \$150,000 over five years from the state Department of Transportation, said Stacey Sanders, the bureau's executive director.

Gina Shalhoub, a community relations specialist for the youth bureau, said officials plan to host workshops to teach children what side of the street to walk and bike on, how to properly cross the street and awareness of surroundings.

"There's been a decline in walking and biking with children since the 1960s, and we are trying to increase the number of children that walk and bike — not only to school, but in their everyday lives," Shalhoub said, adding that the group hopes to do so with supervised frequent walker clubs and other activities.

Brenda Lentsch, public relations coordinator for Commack schools, said the district hopes to expand and increase the frequency of its current initiatives, which include a Walk to School Day and interactive bicycle safety programs that recreate intersections with crosswalks and street signs.

— LAUREN HARRISON

GLEN COVE

Public hearing on bypassing low bidder

A public hearing is scheduled today on a proposal to

authorize city officials to sometimes bypass the lowest bidder in awarding contracts.

Current city law mandates competitive bidding for public works contracts and purchase contracts, and that the city accept the lowest bidder that meets the requirements of a particular project.

State law allows municipalities to make decisions based upon "best value," which includes factors such as quality, reliability and efficiency in addition to cost.

Local governments must use "objective and quantifiable standards" in evaluating bidders or provide a written justification for choosing a bidder based upon best value, a 2014 report by the state comptroller's office says.

The proposed Glen Cove law requires the city purchasing agent to draw up best value procedures.

The public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for today's City Council meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

— DAVID OLSON

HUNTINGTON

Greens residents may get to change units

Huntington officials next month are to consider a town code amendment that would allow residents in the affordable units at The Greens at Half Hollow a one-time opportunity to switch to either a first- or second-floor unit, as they become available.

Those on a waiting list to get an affordable unit would

then be eligible to take the vacated unit.

When the affordable units in the two-story senior development in Melville were first assigned in 2009, residents were not offered a preference of first or second floor. Town officials said some people were disappointed, most likely for health or medical reasons, to get a second-floor unit while others found they preferred to live on the second floor.

"Several residents of the affordables came to the town and requested the opportunity to change floors," town spokesman A.J. Carter said.

If the amendment is passed, residents will have 60 days to get on the list to switch units. Switching apartments will be treated as a new application, with residents having to go through the qualification process, Carter said.

A public hearing on the offer is to be held during the 2 p.m. town board meeting Sept. 16.

— DEBORAH S. MORRIS

Housing Authority honors ex-chairman

The Huntington Housing Authority honored Malcolm Tillim, its former chairman, longtime Huntington attorney and developer by naming its recently renovated community room in his honor.

The Malcolm L. Tillim Community Room at Gateway Gardens on Lowndes Avenue in Huntington Station was dedicated in a ceremony Friday.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy and respect for this and the housing authority," Tillim said.

EAST END REPORTER



Will James

will.james@newsday.com
631-727-7574

@OtherWillJames

What I cover

I cover the East End of Long Island, from the Hamptons to the North Fork, with my colleague Lisa Irizarry. That includes the towns of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, Southold and Shelter Island. I'm interested in the ways Long Island's two forks are changing, due to suburban development, beach erosion and other sorts of forces. Feel free to pass along any story tips.

Coming up

Look for me at today's Southampton Town Board meeting at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Find community stories at newsday.com/towns

"I'm profoundly grateful."

The Huntington Housing Authority is a public agency that helps place low-income families in subsidized housing developments. It has oversight of Gateway Gardens and Millennium Hills in Melville.

Robert Fonti, chairman of the HHA, said Tillim is responsible for the renovation of 40 units in Gateway Gardens, which was completed last year, and for getting 84 units of housing built at Millennium Hills in Melville.

"We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the leadership and courage of Malcolm Tillim," Fonti said.

Tillim was appointed as a commissioner to the HHA in 1999 and named chairman in 2000. He stepped down about six years ago, Fonti said.

Among those on hand to congratulate Tillim were Assemb. Chad Lupinacci (R-Huntington); Huntington Town Supervisor Frank Petrone and board members Mark Cuthbertson, Susan Berland and Tracey Edwards. The town board appoints members to the HHA but those members report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

— DEBORAH S. MORRIS

Fireside chat

Dean Culver, left, was Westhampton Beach fire chief 20 years ago when the pine barrens wildfires broke out. He spoke yesterday with Ed Schneyer, chief of the East Brentwood fire department at the time, about mitigation in a section that burned this month.



VERONIQUE LOUIS