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\$1.50 | LI EDITION
Wednesday
June 11, 2014

Newsday

SPORTS FINAL

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

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LONG ISLAND

Church seeks housing

BY OLIVIA WINSLOW
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Officials from the First Baptist Church of Riverhead sought support yesterday from the Long Island Regional Planning Council in the church's effort to build a Family Community Life Center on nearly 13 acres of its property, which would also provide "critically needed rental housing."

The proposal, said the Rev. Charles A. Coverdale, the church's senior pastor, was created "with a vision that our church could do something greater for the community at large."

Shirley E. Coverdale, the pas-

tor's wife and president and chief executive of the Family Community Life Center Project, asked the council to name it one of regional significance, as it seeks to build greater support for the project, which doesn't have the majority support of the Riverhead Town Board.

Planning Council chairman John D. Cameron said the panel would deliberate on the request. He added, though, that naming a project regionally significant does not mean the council endorses it, only that the project meets certain criteria, such as having significant community or countywide impacts.

Riverhead Town Supervisor

Sean Walter, who is also on the planning council, said he supports the project but said other town board members have voiced concerns, particularly over the tax-exempt status of the church-owned property.

Officials from the Long Island Builders Institute and the Long Island Farm Bureau told the council they supported the church's project.

The proposal seeks to create, says a brochure, "a hub where families can come together to learn, live, work and play" by combining workforce housing with a performing arts center, a senior citizens wellness and day care center, and other amenities

on 12.5 acres.

Shirley Coverdale, in an interview, referenced a report from Martin R. Cantor, who presented to the council the findings of his survey of Long Islanders ages 20 to 34, concluding young adults would leave the region because of the high cost of housing and the lack of options.

"We're seeking to reach the young professionals, just exactly what Marty Cantor talked about," Shirley Coverdale said. She said young medical professionals working locally "are leaving. They need housing. A lot of people, including teachers, are commuting into Riverhead, inconveniently so."

Wife of Southold official arrested

BY WILL JAMES
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Southold Town Police arrested the wife of Southold Town Supervisor Scott Russell yesterday and charged her with violating a court order and criminal mischief in connection with a domestic dispute.

Police said they arrested Nuria Russell, 50, at her home and charged her with criminal contempt of court and criminal mischief, both misdemeanors.

Russell broke a window to gain entry to the couple's Cutchogue house, according to a spokesman for Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota.

The contempt charge stems from Nuria Russell calling her husband from the Southold Town Police station, the spokesman said. The call violated an order of protection issued in family court on June 3, he said.

Southold Town Police declined to elaborate on the circumstances leading to the arrest. Nuria Russell could not immediately be reached for comment. She pleaded not guilty during an arraignment in Southold Town Justice Court on Tuesday and was released on her own recognizance.

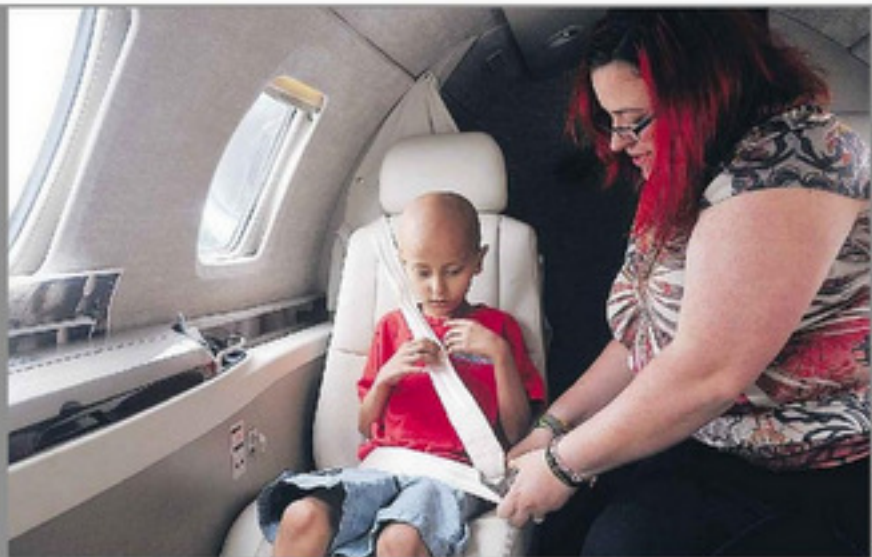
"This is a private matter, and I would request that the privacy of my family and my children be respected," Scott Russell said yesterday.

The couple has two children, according to a statement he released in 2011. Scott Russell brought civil matrimonial proceedings against his wife in 2012 in New York State Supreme Court, according to court records.

Scott Russell, a Republican first elected town supervisor in 2005, took a two-week hiatus from his job in 2011 citing health issues following a reported domestic incident at his home. Upon returning to town hall that year, he expressed "gratitude and deep devotion" to his wife.

Making it easier

Wes Pak, 8, who has neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer, got a private flight home to Virginia from Farmingdale's Republic Airport yesterday. Talon Air and the nonprofit PALS (Patient Airlift Services) arranged the flight for Wes and his mom, Krista, following treatment in Manhattan.



Plandome votes to curb skateboarding

BY SCOTT EIDLER
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Plandome officials have banned skateboarding and roller-skating on a steep street in the village, after residents complained of an influx of outside enthusiasts slalom downhill.

A code change approved Monday night prohibits those activities from the top of Longridge Road to where it meets Pinewood Road.

The village had sought to prohibit skateboarding on sections of five streets, but it removed

the provision naming the venues and authorized the board to designate bans as it saw fit. Trustees, after passing the law 4-1, unanimously approved restrictions for Longridge Road.

"By having the law and the police enforcement, they'll disband and not come back," said M. Lloyd Williams, mayor of the village of nearly 1,400.

Residents and village officials debated the law's merits, with some worrying a ban was too broad a stroke that would necessitate the installation of safety signs. Others cited skate-

boarders who arrived from outside communities. Williams said one child was injured and needed to be bandaged.

Laura Geoghegan, a village resident for 30 years, said, "It became an issue of getting out of your driveway." She said skateboarders had been dropped off by their parents and spent long periods on village streets. "We were worried about the safety of the children," she said. "They were using it [the roads] as a skateboarding park."

Officials encouraged skate-

boarders to use the Town of North Hempstead's skate park in Manorhaven.

Resident Michael Vetrone said after the meeting that he had concerns about safety and the village's power to curb skateboarding if it grew unruly. "Too much activity in one place on a residential street disturbs the quality of life of anybody that's living there," he said.

The Plandome law also bans earphones while skating and requires several safety measures, such as wearing helmets and safety reflectors.

Violators face a maximum fine of \$250 for each offense.