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## Greybarn hosts groundbreaking ceremony at former Mediterranean Manor



### Development to include 91 rental homes

Rechler Equity Partners—the owner and operator of Greybarn Amityville development—recently broke ground on their newest

Greybarn project, Greybarn East Patchogue.

“This development will set a new standard for architecturally superior redevelopment in the area. Greybarn’s (Rechler Equities) reputation is exemplary, and we appreciate their confidence in the Town of

Brookhaven and their investment in East Patchogue—a community that is on the rise,” said Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico.

The three-story building will feature 91 luxury rental homes supported by modern amenities

See **GREYBARN** on page 3

**PHOTO (L-R):** Brookhaven IDA assistant treasurer Frank Trotta; Brookhaven IDA CEO Lisa Mulligan; Brookhaven IDA director of marketing and project development Amy Illardo; NYS Gov. Kathy Hochul’s Office representative Robert Calarco; NYS assemblyman Joe DeStefano; Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico; Rechler Equity co-managing partner Mitchell Rechler; Rechler Equity co-managing partner Gregg Rechler; Brookhaven town deputy supervisor and councilman Neil Foley; Suffolk County Legis. Dominick Thorne; NYS Sen. Dean Murray; Village of Patchogue mayor Paul Pontieri; Brookhaven IDA vice chairman Martin Callahan.

Adv/Fuentes

## Fitnessse, a new fitness-minded clothing store, opens

BY GARY HABER

Darian Trent’s new store in Bellport Village grew out of the 2011 Bellport High School graduate’s passion for being fit and looking good while doing it.

Trent named his store Fitnessse—a combination of fitness and finesse—and he’s filled it with men’s and women’s athleisure wear that looks as stylish going through the drive-through at Starbucks as it does pumping iron at the gym.

Think long-sleeve and short-sleeve tees, tracksuits, sweatsuits, shorts and two-piece sports bra and leggings sets.

The look is all about “making fitness a lifestyle,” said Trent, 30, who played point guard for the Clippers and is an assistant coach for the boys JV team.

Trent opened his store in August.

He’d been selling online since 2019 and grew the business to the point where it made sense to add a retail location, which has been going well, he said.

“The community has been supportive,” Trent said. “The village has welcomed me with open arms. There’s a good vibe here.”

Fitnessse is the first business venture for Trent, who also works as a security guard at Bellport High.

But he learned a lot about running a

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## How much are our schools investing in safety?

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Several of our school districts are investing and implementing safety measures by keeping up to date with the latest available technologies.

However, since the start of the new school year, the Suffolk County Police Department has responded to approximately two-dozen school threats.

Last week, the SCPD also held an active shooter drill at the former Briarcliff Avenue Elementary School in Shoreham. The drill, according to the SCPD, is part of the department’s continuing effort to prepare for an active shooter or emergency.

During the drill, police officers and associated agencies took part in an eight-hour training, including tactical and medical care instruction.

Also last week, Pat-Med’s South Ocean Middle School underwent a bomb threat, which has also happened at William Floyd back in March.

“While patrol remains enhanced around schools, parents and students are reminded of the severity of these threats,” the SCPD said in a statement.

The department also utilizes SHARE and the RAVE panic button. However, the number of districts currently using them could not be provided as of print.

The RAVE panic button mobile app

allows school officials or staff to push a button indicating the type of emergency the school building is experiencing. The app will then immediately dial 911 and send an instant notification with details of the emergency and all faculty and staff on site.

According to the SCPD, the app also allows the school to send updated and critical information via messages with police and will automatically include detailed caller locations, building floorplans, emergency exit locations, emergency contacts and procedures.

The SHARE program, or Sharing to Help Access Remote Entry, gives police

See **SCHOOL SAFETY** on page 7



**Darian Trent opened his store, Fitnessse, on Bellport Lane in Bellport Village in August. Trent sells athleisure wear for men and women and is adding a children’s line.**

Adv/Haber



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# Outdoor market ends due to lack of a produce vendor

Local business seeks to bring it back next season

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Patchogue Outdoor Market has been cancelled after running into mid-September this year due to a lack of a produce

## PATCHOGUE VILLAGE

vendor cited as the main reason, according to BID executive director and outdoor market coordinator Dennis Smith, who is set to retire this month. The produce for the market, which was in its eighth year, has always been supplied by Napolitano Family Farm in Brentwood. However, this year, according to Smith, the farm stated back in June that they were unable to continue their commitment due to being over extended. "Little by little, we were losing

people," Smith said, noting that the termination of the market was mutual between vendors and the village. "We held the last one with about seven vendors."

However, according to Gina Napolitano, owner of Napolitano Farms, multiple issues came into consideration, including declining sales, a medical setback and vagrancy.

"I had requested to move the market to a more visible location that had more foot traffic on more than one occasion over the years, but was denied," she said. "Secondly, I had an incident last season where I had to call the police on a vagrant who was stealing from me and other vendors and who became belligerent and threatening."

The vagrancy issue, she said, was becoming a regular occurrence, including fights and weapons. However, because she was unable to recall an exact date of

these incidents, the Suffolk County Police Department could not confirm.

Smith did confirm vagrancy was an issue, though he said it was always there and not the reason why the market ended this season. "It was really no worse than [it] was any other year," he said, noting that public safety officers were present during the market hours. "As the market became less viable due to the lack of produce, vagrancy seemed like more of an excuse."

Despite the issues, he said, the lack of communication and late notice prevented the village from being able to secure another produce vendor for the market this fall.

Lastly, she said, after a medical setback in her family and since Patchogue was no longer profitable, they decided to only focus on one market and chose the one she felt safe at.

"We had hoped to pop up on occasion in Patchogue, but based on the feedback regarding safety issues from other vendors, we decided not to expose ourselves to a dangerous situation," she added. "We do miss our regular customers and we wish them well."

Typically, the market ran from May through Oct. 30, sometimes going into November, depending on availability, on Sundays at the east end of the Patchogue train station.

The market usually has 25 to 30 vendors, featuring fruits and vegetables, sometimes jellies and jams, and always some sort of craft—and maybe even some fresh pickles and bakery items.

Despite the abbreviated market season this year, Smith said Abby Gruppuso of Better Man Distillery, who annually hosts a very successful holiday market, has expressed interest in helping revive the outdoor market next season, at the distillery located on River Avenue in Patchogue Village.

"I drive past the market every Sunday, and always thought I could do a really good job hosting one," Gruppuso said, noting the success of her annual holiday market. "We have a long list of really cool vendors and people really love it. I am always looking for new ways to get people into the distillery. [I want to] put together a really epic farmers' market—Patchogue deserves that."

Her market, she said, though still in the works, would still be hosted on Sundays, likely a little later starting at 10 a.m., and would include produce as well.

Former executive director of the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce, David Kennedy, who will be taking over Smith's BID seat this month, described the market as one of the many great accomplishments of his predecessor.

"I look forward to keeping it going in some form for sure," he said. "Abby has run successful markets at Betterman, so it makes sense we partner with her to keep the Patchogue Outdoor Market going." ■



File photo

## GREYBARN: Developer to donate one-acre lot to the Patchogue Arts Council

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such as a resort-style pool, clubhouse, community kitchen, fitness center with a golf simulator, shared workspace, screening room and podcast studio. "Selecting an area near a neighboring village like Patchogue to expand our

## EAST PATCHOGUE

Greybarn brand was an easy choice," said Gregg Rechler, co-managing partner of Rechler Equity. "Our partnership with the Town of Brookhaven and the various civic and community groups, like the Patchogue Arts Council, enabled us to design something that truly fits in with the surrounding community while being part of the solution to our region's housing crisis."

Additionally, the developer is donating a one-acre lot and donated them to the Town of Brookhaven, which will become home to the Patchogue Arts Council. The council plans to use the space, located directly across from the development, for exhibits, live music performances and more.

"We always work to incorporate the arts into our project, so being able to support a fantastic organization like the Patchogue Arts Council is a bonus. We expect our future residents will see their facility as an amenity," added Mitchell Rechler,



Adv/Fuentes

co-managing partner of Rechler Equity.

New York State recently pledged \$2 million and Suffolk County earmarked \$800,000 to help offset the costs of the development of the new facility. Once opened, the Town of Brookhaven will charge a small rent to the group to maintain the center and grounds.

"Greybarn marks the beginning of

a new era for East Patchogue," said Brookhaven Town deputy supervisor and councilman Neil Foley. "This project is a testament to the significant investment and commitment developers are making, spending millions to restore and beautify our community. It will not only enhance the area but serve as the gateway into the East Patchogue Overlay District, provid-

ing an opportunity for our town to truly shine."

With construction underway, Rechler Equity expects to welcome its first residents in late 2026, with the project being fully completed the following year.

To learn more about Greybarn East Patchogue, please visit [www.greybarn-li.com](http://www.greybarn-li.com). ■