

New Leader for Hospital Association

Organization is the fundraising arm for improvements, capital projects

BY MICHAEL WRIGHT

Southampton Hospital Association Chairman Kenneth B. Wright announced that he will step down from his post next month and will be succeeded by the association's current vice chairman, Jim Forbes.

Wright, who has been the association's chairman since 2014, will hand over the reins to Forbes on June 26. This week, he assured supporters that the association will be in capable new hands.

"Jim was instrumental in the fundraising for the East Hampton Satellite Emergency Department," Wright said in a letter to supporters of the Southampton

Hospital Foundation, the fundraising arm of the hospital association. "He brings a wealth of experience, including sitting on the board of visitors at Duke University School of Medicine. Under his leadership, SHA's efforts will focus on the expansion of access to high-quality health care throughout our many growing communities."

The Southampton Hospital Association was founded in 1909 with the express mission of raising money to build a hospital on the South Fork. A century later it took up the mission of building a new state-of-the-art facility at the Stony Brook Southampton college campus in Shinnecock Hills.

After raising \$30 million for the construction of the Phillips Family Cancer Center in Southampton and the satellite emergency department in East Hampton, which is under construction, the new hospital is now the association's top fundraising priority.

Wright said earlier this winter that the association anticipates having to raise about \$250 million in private donations to make the project — which will likely cost more than \$400 million in all — a reality. It already has about \$60 million in promised contributions for the project, and Wright, who owns Wright & Company Construction, said he is optimistic the new facility can be

built and open by 2030.

The effort has been slowed, both by the pandemic and by the departure of former hospital Chief Administrative Officer Robert Chaloner last year.

The hospital has seen a number of its leadership roles turnover in recent months. This week, the hospital welcomed a new chief administrative officer, Emily Mastala.

In February, the Southampton Hospital Foundation brought in a new president, Julia McCormack, who Wright said has already breathed new life into the capital campaign and the foundation's efforts to support the hospital and health programs.

Cone Program May Be a Temporary Fix

Canoe Place Road effort does ease congestion

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH

The "cone program" at Canoe Place Road and Montauk Highway in Hampton Bays, a measure implemented to move eastbound traffic through the hamlet in the mornings, "clearly works," Southampton Town's highway superintendent said last week, predicting that it will continue into the fall.

"The problem," said Charlie McArdle, "is that it works so well that it draws more and more people to come this way."

Such is the state, with another summer season arriving and with it a crush of visitors, of a roadway infrastructure that cannot adequately accommodate the "trade parade" of eastbound traffic in the morning.

The traffic that overflows from Route 27 onto residential streets, adversely impacting quality of life there, is one of the more intractable stressors on the East End of Long Island.

It is one of the most visible, and inescapable, consequences of the stratospheric cost of housing on the South Fork. Commuters who live to the west are bypassing a congested Sunrise Highway to take a southern route through Hampton Bays, McArdle said, spreading the daily traffic congestion there.



The traffic cones at Canoe Place Road and Montauk Highway in Hampton Bays.

But the cone program, by which motorists traveling north on Canoe Place Road before turning east on Montauk Highway are guided into a right-turn-only intersection during the morning rush hour, is universally praised. "The word is out," McArdle said. "We have people coming

from the west taking Dune Road to the Ponquogue Bridge, cutting through the back of Hampton Bays," to save time and aggravation on their morning commute. "When it works, it increases the volume there and becomes a slower route, instead of the original plan."

Nonetheless, Suffolk County, which installed a dedicated turning lane on Canoe Place at Montauk Highway, "helps tremendously," he said.

The program is funded by the town, which budgets for both extra police officers and highway department staff to supervise it during the morning hours. "It's really a Band-Aid," said

Town Police Chief James Kieran. "It does keep things flowing in that area. It helps out. Where I'm limited is how long the Town Board will continue to fund it. ..."

"At the moment, though, I can't see it stopping any time before the fall. We should be okay, and we'll reevaluate then and see where we're at, traffic-wise, after the summer."

The Southampton Town Board's Traffic Mitigation and Safety Task Force, created in February to address the chronic air worsening situation, has held two of six planned meetings. Its next meeting is scheduled for June 26 at 4 p.m. at Town Hall.



The Palm Tree Music Festival of the Hamptons, a daylong electronic dance music festival slated to be held at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton on June 22, appears to have been displaced by the Federal Aviation Administration's rejection of its application to hold it there.

CONCERT: New FAA Rule Leads to Permit Denial for Show at Gabreski Airport

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provided by Front Gate Tickets, which handles ticketing for the Palm Tree Music Festival.

The airport is owned by Suffolk County. County Executive Ed Romaine said on Tuesday that "the county's position is that we'll appeal" the FAA's decision, "but we're not too hopeful that the appeal will be addressed successfully." Joshua Smith, the airport manager, did not immediately return a call or email seeking comment.

Ryan Murphy, Southampton Town's public safety administrator, said on Tuesday that he had been unaware of the FAA's rejection of the application to hold the festival at the airport. He and representatives of the fire marshal's office attended a meeting at the airport last week

to review the anticipated layout and safety measures for the festival, he said.

"We actually have a very limited role in this, and we have had a very limited role in this every year that it's been at Gabreski since the inception of the Palm Tree Festival," he said. The town's sole jurisdiction, he said, concerns the festival's pyrotechnics display. "Obviously, the pyrotechnics display also has FAA implications on it as well. But it was made very clear at a meeting recently; with reference to that display, the airport manager said it could not exceed the height of the stage."

Murphy said that he had no reason to believe the festival's application would be denied. "It's really more of a county function than a town function," he said.



The 2023 Hamptons Pride Parade.

DANA SHAW

Dedicated Train For Pride Parade

BY MICHAEL WRIGHT

A special Long Island Rail Road train will run from Speonk to East Hampton on the morning of June 1 to shuttle those who wish to attend the third annual Hamptons Pride Parade.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority last week approved the addition of a special shuttle train for the parade attendees.

The special train will make one trip east, departing Speonk at 10:19 a.m., with stops departing Westhampton at 10:25, Hampton Bays at 10:34, Southampton at 10:44, Bridgehampton at 10:52 and arriving in East Hampton Village at 11:02.

The parade kicks off at noon, and the train back west will depart the East Hampton station at 4 p.m. The fare will be \$7 each way.

"It's a big deal that the MTA has put their faith in us to make adding this train worth it, and it's a really big show of support for local LGBTQ+ people and their allies on the East End, so we want to make sure we fill it so we can get it again next year," Thomas House, the founder of the Hamptons Pride Parade, said.

"We're hoping that this will help us reach people that we haven't been able to reach before in Hampton Bays and Westhampton. And it will make it easier

for people in Southampton and Bridgehampton, too — you don't have to worry about weekend traffic and the hassle of parking."

House said that a "welcoming committee" will greet the train's arrival in East Hampton and lead the crowd of attendees — a mini parade of sorts — to the staging area for the parade on James Lane.

The Hamptons Pride Parade has drawn upward of 1,000 people in each of its first two events, and House said they expect even more this year.

More information on the parade and Hamptons Pride can be found at HamptonsPride.org

As it did last year, this year's parade will be followed by a celebration in Herrick Park that will see musical acts — the Bridgehampton Marimba Band, DJ Karlin Ward and Chilean percussionist Mila Tina — food trucks and family-oriented activities.

"It's a family event — all the schools come, there's no alcohol and it's 100 percent free thanks to all our volunteers and East Hampton Village," House said. "We had so many people last year, and we've had so much support from the village and the police, and we are really looking forward to having another great event this year with tons of people coming out on this train."

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