

Around LI

Input sought on bike seizures

The Babylon Village Board of Trustees will keep public comments open in regards to amending a code to add an impound fee for the administrative and storage changes related to bicycle seizures.

During a Nov. 10 public hearing via Zoom, trustees supported imposing a fee, which village attorney Gerard Glass said “might be set by the board from time to time by resolution.” Trustees have already proposed a fee of \$100.

“I think it’s a great tool to have,” said trustee Tony Davida.

The changes were prompted by reports on social media of aggressive bicyclists riding in traffic, aggravating drivers and playing “chicken” with them, i.e. approaching a vehicle head-on and swerving at the last minute.

Email info@villageofbabylonny.gov to submit a comment or send mail to Village Hall, all to the attention of the Board of Trustees. Comments must be submitted by Tuesday. — KELDY ORTIZ

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BROOKHAVEN

FINDING ITS REPURPOSE

After revamping facility, town says recycling program resurrected

BY CARL MACGOWAN

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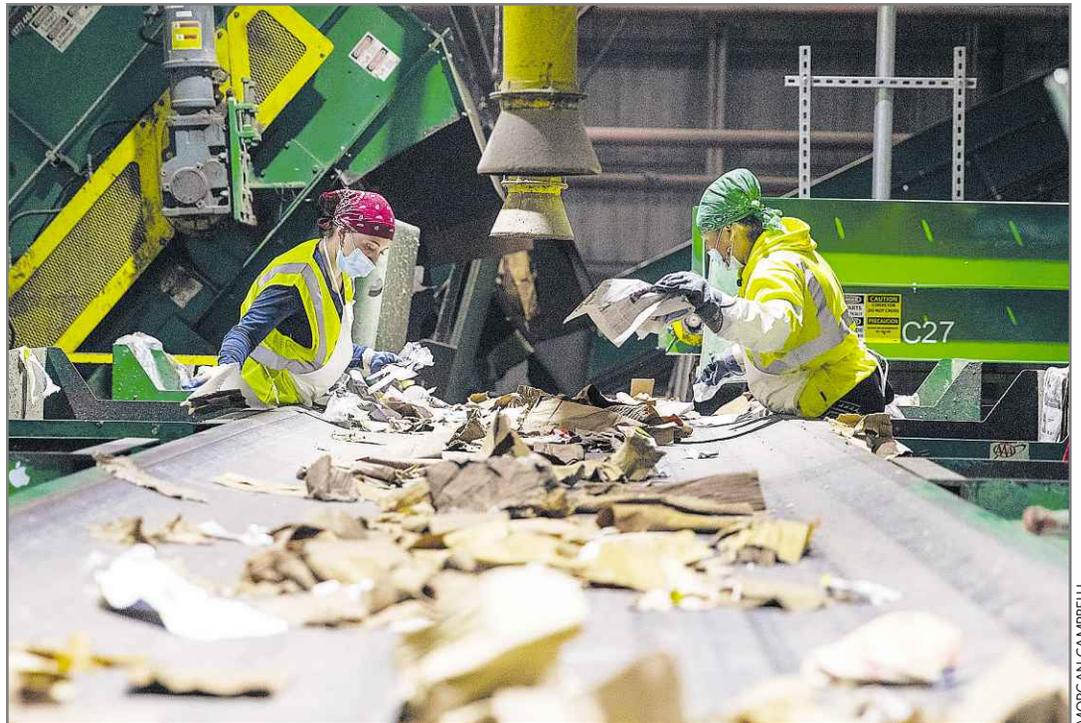
Brookhaven’s revamped recycling center — reopened earlier this year after a \$7.5 million modernization — has town officials saying they have resurrected a recycling program that fell apart two years ago amid major changes in the international commodities market.

The plant on Horseblock Road in Brookhaven hamlet closed in November 2018 when China drastically curtailed purchases of American recyclables. That prompted the town to ditch its single-stream recycling program — in which homeowners commingled paper, glass, plastics, metals and cardboard in single bins for weekly curbside pickup — and switch to a dual-stream system, which requires residents to separate recyclables.

After shipping its recyclable waste to a Brooklyn plant for more than a year, Brookhaven reopened its facility in March. Since then, it has processed more than 25 million pounds of material — a milestone that has the town and plant operator Winters Bros. Waste Systems proclaiming the revamp a success.

“If there’s something that’s good about 2020, it’s that this facility has come back,” Winters Bros. vice president Will Flower said Friday during a tour of the plant. “That’s 25 million pounds [of trash] that is not going to the landfill.”

The 75,000-square-foot plant — the largest in Suffolk and Nassau counties — takes in up to 38 tons per hour of recyclables that are sorted and packed in enormous bales for shipment. Brookhaven’s net costs for recycling — after paying Winters Bros. a fee and receiving a share of revenue from sales — is about \$40 per ton, Flower said.



MORGAN CAMPBELL

Brookhaven reopened its remodeled recycling center in March. ■ Video: newsday.com/longisland

Islip Town pays Winters Bros. \$85 per ton to use the facility, town spokeswoman Caroline Smith said. Smithtown spokeswoman Nicole Garguilo said that town pays the company \$69 per ton.

Brookhaven’s goal is to produce recycled plastic, paper, metals and cardboard that is as clean as possible to make it more marketable, officials said. Previously, the town aimed for larger quantities of material, but that resulted in too much residue from packing tape, shipping labels and moisture from rain and beverage liquid.

Recycled material can be used in products ranging from new cans and boxes to clothing and furniture.

Flower said Winters Bros. removed most of the plant’s old equipment, some of it decades old, and replaced it with newer

Recycling 101

What is collected:

- Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, copy paper
- No. 1 and No. 2 plastics (find the number within the triangle on plastic products), including milk jugs, detergent bottles, water and soda bottles
- Tin, aluminum and aerosol spray cans

What is not collected:

- Egg cartons, greasy pizza boxes, plastic foam, plastic bags, motor oil bottles
- Glass may be brought to a town drop-off location. Those locations and more information are on the town website: brookhavenny.gov/360/Curb-side-Recycling

than a dozen conveyor belts spanning about 700 yards while material is separated by hand or by low-tech devices such as optical scanners, blowers, magnets and eddy currents.

“It’s just an industrialized version of a school science fair,” said plant general manager Jeff Nella.

Getting residents to recycle remains a challenge. Town officials say about 15% of household trash is recycled.

But officials said the amount of material is less important than how clean it is. While officials encourage residents to increase their recycling, they stress the importance of strictly following guidelines for proper disposal.

“We changed our focus from quantity to quality,” Flower said. “So far we’re able to produce a great quality product.”

models. Recyclables are moved by 18 employees over more