

Around

Lottery held for senior housing in Wyandanch

A lottery is being held for a new senior affordable housing apartment building in Wyandanch.

All 94 units of the five-story building at 11 Park Dr. are designated affordable, with 59 one-bedroom and 35 studio apartments, including five units for the mobility impaired, two of which are equipped for those with hearing and vision impairments. Eight of the units have been set aside for Section 8 housing and 86 units are available through the lottery.

The apartments are only open to those age 62 and older who annually earn between 30% and 70% of the Area Median Income, which for one person ranges from \$20,910 to \$63,700. Rents are \$1,047 to \$1,478 for a studio and \$649 to \$1,579 for a one-bedroom.

The application can be found at wyandanchvillage.com. Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on March 25. The lottery results will be livestreamed on April 22 at 10 a.m.

— DENISE M. BONILLA



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BROOKHAVEN TOWN

Accomplishing a MISSION

BY CARL MACGOWAN
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Beach sand for years has scoured a granite monument at the Lake Ronkonkoma park honoring Patchogue war hero Lt. Michael P. Murphy.

But a new retaining wall installed last fall by Brookhaven Town — one of several park improvements funded by a federal program to help the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic — is expected to help restore peace to the park Murphy’s family calls “serenity plaza.”

The retaining wall is expected to help block sand from damaging the stone memorial bearing the likeness of the Navy SEAL, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor after he was killed in 2005 in Afghanistan.

“The idea is that when people come to this beach and they see this monument to Michael that it reminds them, not just of Michael and the 19 men who fell in [Operation] Red Wings, but it reminds them of all our fallen heroes and what they did to make us safe,” Daniel Murphy, Murphy’s father, told Newsday as he visited the park on Tuesday. “Especially now, with what is happening in Ukraine, it’s a poignant reminder.”

The park upgrades, including new sidewalks and a picnic area, had been planned for years and were completed last year, town officials said.

But officials said paying for the \$97,191 project — as well as park and marina improvements elsewhere in the town — became easier with the passage last year of the American Rescue Plan, or ARP, the federal coronavirus recovery program.

The town board on March 3 voted 7-0 to allocate \$626,565 — a small portion of the \$55 million in ARP funds awarded to



Daniel Murphy, father of late Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, overlooks a monument to his son, inset, in the Lake Ronkonkoma park that now has a protective retaining wall. ■ Video: newsday.com/longisland

the town — to the Murphy park improvements and projects at recreational facilities in Gordon Heights, Medford, Center Moriches and Mastic. The allocation also will pay for touchless bathroom fixtures such as motion-activated faucets at parks throughout Brookhaven.

Councilman Dan Panico said the federal funds help complete projects without passing the costs on to town taxpayers.

“These projects were projects that needed to be done and, outside of this funding, would have affected taxpayers directly,” he said.

In some cases, the funds have been applied retroactively to projects already completed. In other cases, projects that had been proposed but lacked funding will get finished faster because of the federal money, officials said.

Most of the ARP funds are pegged for infrastructure

projects that the public may not see, such as sewage treatment plants and water quality improvements.

Recreational facility projects include new public electrical outlets, decking and substructure improvements at marinas in Mastic and Center Moriches, Panico said.

At Granny Road Park in Gordon Heights, ARP money is helping to build new basketball courts — the latest in several upgrades that have helped make the park more attractive, Gordon Heights Civic Association president E. James Freeman told Newsday.

“You have so many people now that are coming into that park from all over the Town of Brookhaven, and that’s because of the projects that have been done,” he said. “We had to deal with negative comments from people before. Now people come here to use the park.”

Federal COVID funds to help pay for upgrades at Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Park, marinas and other sites

Park rescues

Brookhaven Town parks improvements funded by the American Rescue Plan:

■ **Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Park, Lake Ronkonkoma**
Retaining wall, sidewalks, plant beds, picnic area
Cost: \$97,191

■ **Granny Road Park, Gordon Heights**
New basketball courts
Cost: \$125,000

■ **Hallock Park, Medford**
Parking lot refurbishment
Cost: \$57,835

■ **Union Avenue Dock, Center Moriches**
Dock refurbishment
Cost: \$46,539

■ **Forge River Dock, Mastic**
Dock replacement
Cost: \$160,000

■ **Townwide**
Touchless bathrooms
Cost: \$140,000

SOURCE: BROOKHAVEN TOWN