



# Shelter Island Reporter

\$2 | THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 SIREPORTER.COM

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND • VILLAGE OF DERING HARBOR

## Saving Union Chapel from above

### New lightning protection installed

BY GRAHAM MOORE | REPORTER

Since time immemorial, humans have known that lightning is one of nature's more sporadic yet deadly threats.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, over the last 20 years, the United States averaged 51 annual lightning strike fatalities.

The most recent statistics by the National and Fire Protection Association depict a surprising regularity of lightning-related damage and injuries. Between 2007 and 2011, local fire departments around the country responded to an estimated average of 22,600 fires per year that were sparked by lightning.

These fires caused nine deaths, 52 injuries and \$451 million in direct property damage.

So it's not surprising that one of Shelter Island's historic treasures,



COURTESY PHOTO

Christopher Gillette, a crew member with Associated Lightning Rod Company, at work on Union Chapel late last week.

the Union Chapel, has recently installed new lightning protection for

MORE UNION CHAPEL | 14

## South Ferry outlines rate increase plans

### But just Ferry, county officials attended

BY JULIE LANE | STAFF REPORTER

With a recommendation from its Budget Review Office, expect the Suffolk County Legislature to approve South Ferry's requested rate hike on June 18. That was the announcement from South Ferry officials on June 5 at a meeting at Town Hall called to answer ques-

tions from the public.

Except the public was nowhere to be seen.

Members of the South Ferry staff — President Cliff Clark, Chief Operating Office Nicholas Morehead and Chief Financial Officer Tish Clark — were met by town officials. John Needham and Elizabeth Galle, who are members of the Shelter Island Ferry Committee, and Town Supervisor Gary Gerth, Deputy Supervisor Amber Brach-Williams and Town

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JULIE LANE PHOTO

South Ferry CEO Cliff Clark (left) and Chief Operating Officer Nicholas Morehead outlined major aspects of the proposed fare hike at a meeting at Town Hall June 5.

## Island Dr. rejected by Stony Brook for Med Center

### Dr. Peter Kelt passed over by university hospital after a 37-year practice

BY JULIE LANE | STAFF REPORTER

NYU-Winthrop Hospital has served notice it's not going to continue its affiliation with Dr. Peter Kelt on Shelter Island. Stony Brook University Hospital, which is taking over management of the Medical Center on January 1, 2020, will not include the long-time doctor in its staffing.

Stony Brook officials had told Supervisor Gary Gerth that if they were selected to manage the Medical Center, they would have final word on staffing. The officials have visited the facility and given it high marks, but said they would like to join the two separate office spaces now occupied by Dr. Kelt and Dr. Nathanael Desire

into a single office.

Mr. Gerth said it made sense to allow Stony Brook officials to choose the physicians, since he and other members of a committee working on the transition can't judge doctors' credentials.

"We all love him," Mr. Gerth said about Dr. Kelt. "It's very frustrating."

He added that although Stony Brook seems to be the only institution capable of taking over the Medical Center, final agreements haven't been signed. The supervisor said he expects that by January 1, Dr. Desire, who has a relationship with Stony Brook, will remain on a part-time

basis and another doctor will be assigned along with nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

In August 2020, when Shelter Island resident Dr. Josh Potter completes his residency with Stony Brook, he is likely to be brought into the mix. There are still details to be worked out, Mr. Gerth said.

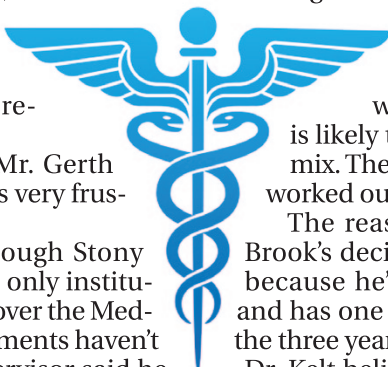
The reasoning behind Stony Brook's decision about Dr. Kelt is because he's not board certified and has one year of residency, not the three years now required.

Dr. Kelt believes he and others in his position should have been grandfathered in when requirements were changed.

When he started to practice 37 years ago, requirements were different. There is no board certification for general practitioners then or now, and he was required to serve a single year of residency. He would have had to serve another two years as a hospital resident now, something he's not inclined to do after so many years of practicing medicine. It's why doctors today may be general practitioners, but will get board certified as internists, he said.

"I had no intention of retiring" either several months ago or at the end of this year, Dr. Kelt said. He's hoping Islanders he has been treating for 37 years will create a groundswell of letters to Stony Brook stating their opposition to the decision.

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## LETTERS

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omits that the initial incarnation required nonpaying guests be counted towards our rental allotment. Then the proposal required guests to submit a verification they were not paying rent. Now, they are excluded. Good. But I can only wonder whether that was due to pressure from more connected people who often lend their waterfront compounds to business associates, or leave their household staff during the week.

Why has there been no discussion about the fact that the multitude of illegal long-term rentals will

not be able to register as they have no Certificate of Occupancy. Will evictions soon be the norm and the landlords jail birds?

I commend the editor for disclosing the financial arrangement — however small — it has with Mr. Colligan. I had found the protectionist attitude towards Mr. Colligan, a public official, curious in terms of censoring letters, and comments, while writers call private citizens garbage collectors, our homes flophouses, and our neighborhoods “ghettos.”

**SHELLY D'ARCAMBAL**  
Shelter Island

*Editor's note:* No letter or comments are ‘censored.’

## DOROTHY ROSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

beauty shop, she was often helping friends and neighbors. Dot did not let anything slow her down, her family recalled, or stop her from doing what she loved. She was an inspiration to so many who knew her, and contin-

ues to be a role model for her family.

Please come join us as we say goodbye to one heck of a lady. Someone who never failed to remind us that a little “Shelter Island air” is the answer to everything.

A service celebrating Dot's life will be held at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m.

## UNION CHAPEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this summer's coming storm season. Built in 1875, the Chapel is one of the oldest buildings on Shelter Island that is still in use. It was constructed by a devout Methodist and builder by the name of John “Honest John” French, known for “mixing mortar with a conscience.”

Chapel Treasurer Dave Ruby said Monday that the church trustees “recognize the importance of preserving and maintaining this building and its historical significance and the beautiful Walter Brigham mosaic windows, which are unique.”

As any homeowner or firefighter will tell you, proud and noble words such as “oldest” and “historic” are also usually synonymous with more blunt and threatening words such as “fire hazard.”

As two men from his company were climbing around the roof and installing new wiring in the church attic, Rob Cooper, president of Millerton, New York's Associated Lightning Rod Company, explained that

“lightning is a leading cause of church fires.”

Fortunately, according to Mr. Ruby, “The new system meets modern standards and replaces older, weathered materials. Twelve lightning rods, also called ‘air terminals,’ are now located at the roof peaks and tower. More earth grounding points and bonds to the water and electric system were added.”

The new installations also respect the church's historic aesthetic. One of the Associated Lightning Rod crew members, Eric Farnham, said, “You don't see all the wire running across the roof. It's almost all inside.”

The new system is an upgrade from the 1950s-era system that had previously served the building. Mr. Ruby also mentioned that the investment in the new protection was made possible by the community's response to the Chapel's fall appeal. “We spent almost all the money we received on this critical project,” he said.

Union Chapel summer services begin this weekend at 10:30 a.m. and continue for the next 13 weeks, with a different guest preacher each week.

This historic Shelter Island jewel seems, for the foreseeable future, safe from the irregular fury of lightning.



**RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY**

# "MEET OUR NEIGHBORS" DINNER

June 22nd, 2019

5 PM - 7 PM

**St Mary's Hall**

26 St. Mary's rd. Shelter Island NY 11964

Immigrants from the East End will be sharing their stories and speaking about their activism for immigrant and labor rights. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards our youth programs.

Current Covenanting Denominations of Rural & Migrant Ministry include: Albany Presbytery; Capital Area Baptist Association; Episcopal Diocese of New York; Episcopal Diocese of Rochester; Mid-Hudson Baptist Association; New York Annual Conference, United Methodist Church; New York Conference, United Church in Christ; New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); Presbytery of the Hudson River; Presbytery of Long Island; Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America; Roman Catholic Diocese, Albany; Roman Catholic Diocese, Rochester

*Donations will be asked at the event*



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