

# Chamber vows to take the right steps in 2017

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The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce holds meetings each month where they work to find new ways to improve the community.

Photo courtesy of Chamber of Commerce

The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce is fully prepared to improve their community in 2017. After speaking with community members and organizations, chamber president Alex Gallego said that they are ready to execute several of the initiatives that were put in place.

"From last year's introspection, we revisited and redefined the mission statement of the chamber of commerce," Gallego said. "At the same time I went behind the scenes and spoke to every leader in the community that I could get 5 minutes with."

Gallego and the chamber felt that they could not move forward without transparency. He wanted to be sure that the chamber was aware of exactly what the community needs.

"We knew going into this thing that we can't do it alone," Gallego said. "We need our partners, we need our community and if we can all be on the same page, and then we can do a better job."

Two of the main areas the chamber would like to improve are marketing and networking of the local organizations and businesses. Gallego explained that the chamber would begin a very "aggressive" campaign starting on St. Patrick's Day, when they plan to network with community members on a monthly basis.

Kelly Fuhrmann, chamber board member and superintendent of Sagamore Hill, said the chamber is putting the community first. "We're all working together to let visitors know about the benefits, resources, and everything that's available in this community," Fuhrmann said. "We've worked very hard and the community has been very supportive of us."

Fuhrmann, who has only lived in the community for the past three years, is one of the newest board members. He's immersed himself in the community. Sagamore Hill, the former home of President Theodore Roosevelt, attracts 60,000 visitors each

year. Now that Fuhrmann is a member of the chamber, Gallego would like to bridge a relationship between the community and Sagamore Hill.

"Part of what we're going to do now in our marketing efforts is to focus on the most famous face that Oyster Bay has, which is Teddy Roosevelt," he said. "I want those visitors to come into the community and see how beautiful our town is."

Gallego would also like to have visitors enjoy some of the latest restaurants that have opened in the hamlet. He cited Autentico, Greek Cove, Spinnakers Restaurant & Bar, and several other restaurants as places where residents should look forward to enjoying this year. Gallego added that these are areas that the community can relate to.

"We're starting to understand ourselves in that we can only be true to who we are," Gallego said. "We are a family destination with amazing restaurants and a history that we are embracing."

Oyster Bay Civic Association president and chamber board member Richard LaMarca agreed with the chamber's plans to utilize its history. He described Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park and Beach as a "gem" which he hopes community members will visit in the spring and summer.

LaMarca also believes in using social media as a tool that can keep residents well informed on what's happening in Oyster Bay. He stated that he's constantly posting and sharing content about events, meetings and anything important that pertains to the community.

"Everybody's on social media," LaMarca said. "Social media is the key to marketing."

This is one of the many ways the chamber can improve their collaborative efforts to work with the community as a unified group, LaMarca added.

Gallego said the chamber has revamped their online presence and believes this can add to getting the word out about everything the community has to offer. He listed the

Planting Fields Arboretum, the Waterfront Center, renovations to the Railroad Museum, Billy Joel's 20th Century Cycle Museum, and the Collector Car Showcase as some of the main destinations where residents and visitors can be entertained.

"These are ways that show the chamber continues to think ahead," he said. "We will continue to think about innovation and how we can make things better."

Gallego gave a lot of credit for the chamber's success to its board members and community leaders for their nonstop efforts to improve the hamlet.

"We have such great leaders on our board," Gallego said. "They all work tirelessly on a volunteer basis to make their community better. Those are the unsung heroes."

A constant question that Gallego poses to his board members is — "What do we want to be remembered for?" By asking this question, the board narrows down their goals to specifically address concerns that are at the top of the list for their community.

Fuhrmann would like to make the community accessible for anyone who comes to visit. LaMarca wants to revitalize the downtown area and redevelop some of the infrastructure as well. His goal is to successfully serve residents and businesses of the Oyster Bay community in the most productive and efficient manner.

"It's a special place," LaMarca said. "I would like to generate more foot traffic. If we had more, this would really fill up some of our new storefronts."

Gallego said that the plans put in place during 2016 are beginning to come together. Now, the chamber is focused on executing each of those goals as the year unfolds.

"All of them together have really set the course of action that we can finalize in 2017," he said. "We'll never stop changing, we'll never stop growing, and we'll never stop looking for opportunity. We've set the course right and so far, I think we're off to a good start."

## Are the state's new science standards good for education?

(Continued from page 1)

Seinfeld said that the district has been preparing for the Board of Regents adoption of the new science standards and is ready to meet the requirements for implementation.

"We are very supportive of the shift to the Next Generation Science Standards, and our staff has been working on curricular alignment with the new standards," Seinfeld said. "We believe NGSS align well with our district mission and goals focused on a rigorous and relevant instructional program as students are asked to think critically and engage in scientific and engineering processes."

But some parents in the community are not happy that the state is forcing another set of standards on what they believe to be an

already financially strapped district. Collette Foley, of Bayville, said she believes the new science standards are just another facet of the same old problem.

"It's taxing for our district to have to keep up financially every time a new set of standards comes out," Foley said. "They have to add professional development and hire teachers to write curriculum to match the standards. Students aren't all 'standard,' so why do we keep placing such importance on the proficiency of these standards?"

Foley has twin daughters in fourth grade at Bayville Intermediate School, and opted them out of the state assessment tests that they would have taken for the first time last year. She said she plans to opt them out again this year.

The Statewide Leader-

ship Team, Science Education Steering Committee and Science Education Consortium developed the new science standards over a five-year period. The Education Department also took information from two public surveys: a 2013 summer survey that compared the current state Science Learning Standards with the Next Generation Science Standards for use in formulating recommendations to the Board of Regents; and a survey that was open for public comment from Dec. 8, 2015, to Feb. 8, 2016, which included a draft copy of the science standards. According to NYSED, data from these surveys were analyzed in a "quantitative and qualitative" way, and the feedback was used to make the necessary changes to the final standards.

The rollout of the state's

### NYSED's five-year strategic plan for transitioning to the new science learning standards

- Develop a reasonable timeline for the adoption of and transition to implementation of the new New York state science learning standards.
- Secure funding to support and sustain the implementation process at the state, regional, and local levels.
- Ensure that the six critical components of the five-year strategic plan — standards, curriculum, professional development to enhance instruction, assessment, materials and resource support, and administrative and community support — are addressed concurrently during the implementation process.

English and math standards in 2011 was fraught with problems, including confusion over the standards and flaws in the test booklets. Education advocates were upset not only with the rollout, but also with the standards, which they claimed were not vetted through teachers. Over the following couple of years the state fixed the tests and adjusted

the standards. Community members were skeptical at the time, and questioned the state's sincerity in making demonstrable changes.

The entire process for statewide implementation of the science standards is laid out in full on NYSED's website. It is a dizzying, comprehensive plan that's difficult for the layperson to comprehend. However, all district

schools are expected to implement the new standards by the 2017-18 school year. Seinfeld said she believes the challenge is worth the extra effort in implementing the standards, which will inevitably require new curriculum. She stated that the implementation of the new standards is "likely to help students prepare for their future learning and careers."

#### ACROSS

- 1 Aid
- 5 Verse
- 9 Wander about
- 12 Neighborhood
- 13 Fairy tale baddie
- 14 — de Janeiro
- 15 Coup in bridge or baseball
- 17 Moreover
- 18 Release
- 19 Patchwork horse
- 21 Mad
- 24 Roe provider
- 25 Golfer McIlroy
- 26 Haughty, strutting sort

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- 30 Ms. Gardner
- 31 Bluefin and albacore
- 32 Oft-chanted initials
- 33 Round Table member
- 35 Smile
- 36 Transaction
- 37 Skin-covered craft
- 38 Stimulant
- 40 One who's gonna get it?
- 42 Address for 33-Across
- 43 Extensive treat for sightseers
- 48 Tackle the slopes
- 49 "— Lang Syne"
- 50 Ticklish
- 51 Tyrannosaurus —
- 52 Witnesses
- 53 Peruse
- DOWN**
- 1 Crown
- 2 Blunder
- 3 Meadow
- 4 Saute
- 5 Sit for a snapshot
- 6 Leer at
- 7 Historic time
- 8 Tennessee
- 9 Courtroom group
- 10 "— That a Shame"
- 11 Old fogey
- 16 Parched
- 20 Author Fleming
- 21 Fast-shrinking sea
- 22 PBS science show
- 23 International auto race
- 24 Expectorated
- 26 Tug
- 27 Yoko of music
- 28 21-Down's
- 29 Tug
- 31 Anti-riot chemical
- 34 Bee follower
- 35 Type of snake
- 37 Tease
- 38 Cold War abbr.
- 39 Toll road
- 40 Revolutionary War hero Nathan
- 41 Tackles' teammates
- 44 Regret
- 45 Bullring bravo
- 46 Actress Thurman
- 47 Scepter

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