

Wyandanch

Community Advisory Board

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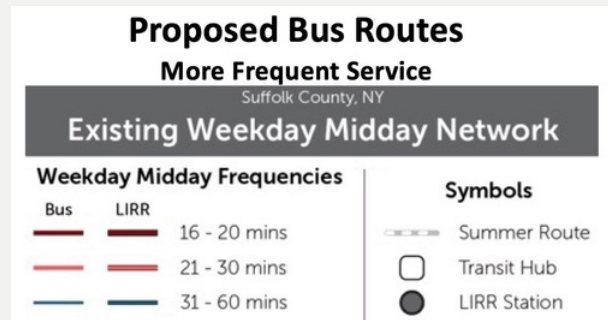
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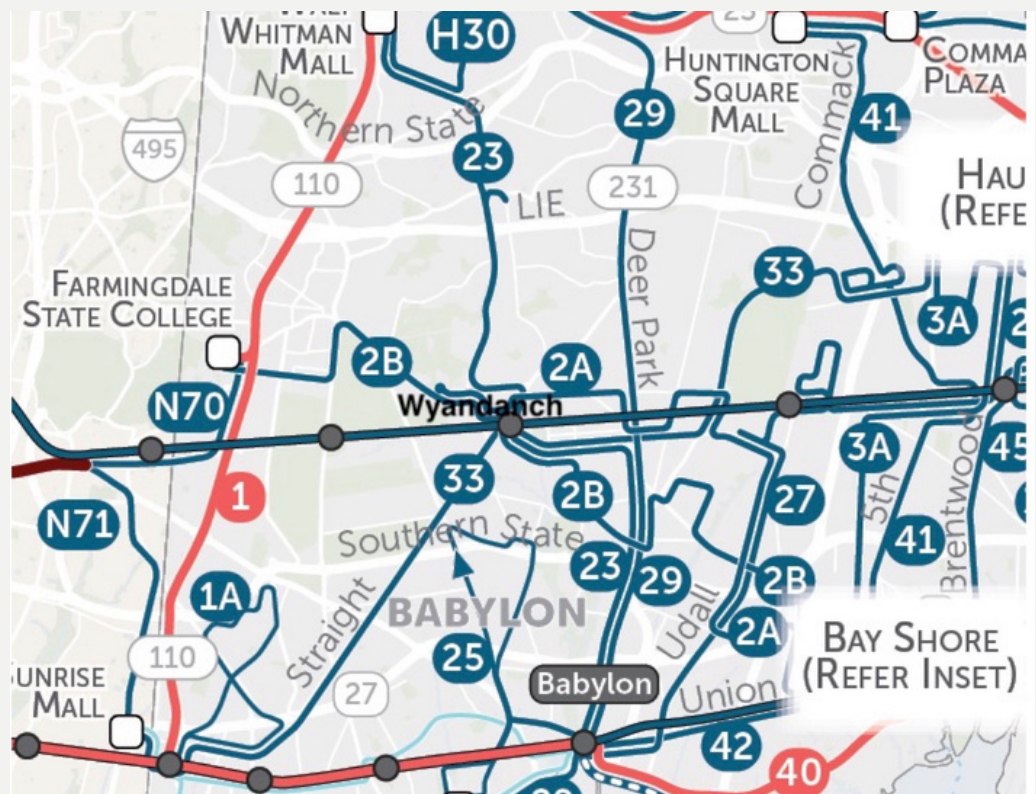
Links

NYSCHECK website:
<https://nyscheck.org/wyandanch>

Speedy Bus Service!



Suffolk County is planning a new initiative that "rethinks and...[re]considers how its transit system is meeting the County's mobility needs." Called the *Reimagine Transit* plan, the county proposes to reallocate funds towards bus lines in areas that most frequently rely on public transportation, a shift from its traditional setup of dispersing the bus lines throughout all of Suffolk. Wyandanch is a hot spot for more frequent bus service. If adopted, residents would wait less time for local buses.



Organizational Spotlight:

Laurie Farber's Earth Rangers

-Erin Torres, Walt Whitman High School, Huntington
Breast Cancer Action Coalition EH Ambassador,
Community Advisory Board, Long Island NYS
Children's Environmental Health Center

This Week's organizational spotlight highlights the efforts of the Earth Rangers, a program geared towards teaching 4th and 5th grade students how to reduce waste and become more environmentally conscious in their communities. I interviewed Laurie Farber, who leads the rangers, to discuss her incredible work. Here is how the interview went:



What led you to start an Earth Rangers

Chapter?: "The program itself is part of a bigger organization (Earth Institute for Education). I helped get books and materials together. We started running the program with a handful of 5th grade classes from some other schools. Then we came up to a year when one district told us their environmental curriculum will move to

6th grade, so the 5th grade classes can't do it anymore. Then, at this Catholic school in Hicksville, one of the teachers retired, and the other teacher was too freaked out to do it without her. So I started looking for a school that was close to where we were at the time, West Hills County Park in Melville. **[con't p.6]**

How can you take action to reduce waste today?

(According to Laurie Farber)

Personal Contribution:

Start small - avoid disposable water bottles and choose reusable water bottles instead, specifically stainless steel or glass if you can. Overall, you can choose to use less plastic and recycle. Encourage others to follow your lead!



Make Community Change:

Push NYS to expand the Bottle Bill: the Bottle Bill is the reason we earn 5 cents for certain bottles recycled in machines. Currently, only water bottles and sodas can be recycled for economic benefits. An amendment has been proposed so that the new Bottle Bill expands to non-carbonated drinks and iced teas, so more items can be recycled properly.

For more information on the bottle bill, [click here](#)



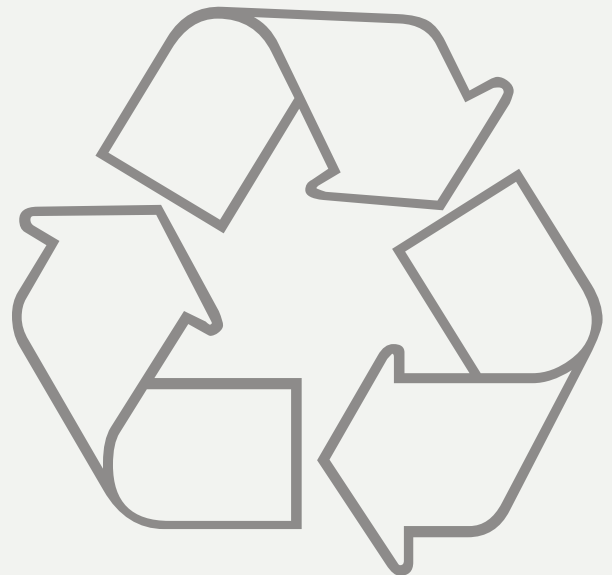
(cont.) I wanted a place that would be a good day trip, a nice natural area nearby to explore. I came across a blank space on the map in Wyandanch. I drove down there one day... bushwhacked through the woods found this pond and thought "Oh this is very cool!" So I called the county legislator's office, run by Maxine Posal back then. Her district was in an odd shape at the time. The person who answered the phone tells me it's already county property. It turns out some of it is town property and some is parkland. So I approached the school principal and she told me that we [could start the Earth Rangers program] after school and that is how it started. We have kids from different classes who sign up individually, and 20 years later are still doing it.

What is your favorite part about this job? I'd say there are two things: one, I get to go down to the pond...I get to see some cool stuff. The second, is I get to meet some amazing kids. If they stick with me, I remember them. Some are unrecognizable when they are 16 and I haven't seen them since they were 9. Some of these kids are really just great kids. It has been rare that I have had one I couldn't deal with.

What has changed between now and 20 years ago? I've noticed all my kids love to read now; their reading level has gone up. It has been nice... to see kids wanting books. There is a little free library in Wyandanch Park....Unfortunately it is not kept up, but the kids usually take books on the way back [from the pond].

Your future goals for Earth Rangers? *To make a difference in the community.* 16 years ago, one little boy was very upset at one time when they were getting Newsday in the elementary school, and they would get all these bundles of newspapers that were getting thrown away. So he looked into setting up recycling [for the newspaper]. We ended up collecting white paper in the upper elementary school building. The program spread into the third grade school. There is another group in the high school that has picked it up, and we expanded it in the primary schools as well. We have been doing white paper recycling starting 6 years or so. That is something the kids started! When we started we had teachers saying to the kids "Why are you doing that?" like it didn't even matter. But [the kids kept doing their own thing] and the teachers don't do that anymore."

Ms. Farber is running for the School Board this election season. Check out page 2 for her tips on how to reduce waste on a personal and community level.



Upcoming Scholarships

Adventureland Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship

- Applicants must be attending college or university on LI.
- Must show a knack for business passion for family and commitment to education, and dedication for the LI community

Awards: five \$5,000 scholarships
Deadline: June 30th, 2022

Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship

- High School Senior
- Promoted vegetarianism in their communities and school

Awards: One \$10,000 scholarship and two \$5,000 scholarships

Deadline: June 2022



Big Sun Scholarships

- Applicants must be a student athlete
- (sport and level does not matter; you do not have to be a D1 player to join)

Award: \$500
Deadline: June 19, 2022

Adventureland Helping Hands Foundation Sachem Dental Group Scholarship

- Must be a full time student on an LI university in the fall of 2022
- Studying fields of biology, chem, premed, or any other medical fields

Award: \$5,000
Deadline: June 30th, 2022

About us!

Wyandanch Community Advisory Board (CAB)



“Environmental health is an opportunity. We can choose to raise healthy children in healthy places. The ideas are simple, because we know what works and what doesn’t. The implementation is hard, because it takes collective action over time.”

-CAPPY COLLINS, MD, MPH; DIRECTOR, LONG ISLAND CENTERS, NYSCHECK (FROM THE CAB CASE STATEMENT)

In 2021, the Long Island Chapter of the New York State Children’s Environmental Health Centers ([NYSCHECK](#)) created the Wyandanch Community Advisory Board (CAB) to identify and address the community health needs of regional children and youth.

In coming months, the CAB will promote youth leadership and provide guidance to:

- **Identify** local environmental hazards and community health resources.
- **Review** strategies to reduce exposures to hazards and expand access to health resources.
- **Work** with public health officials to reduce or eliminate sources of known pollution.

Click Here to subscribe to our newsletter, provide comments, or volunteer. We seek writers, youth leaders, and health advocates from the Wyandanch area.

Editors: Erin Torres, Aliyyah Hamid, Rosa Melendez

Wyandanch CAB Coordinator, Dr. Scott Carlin

CAB is a project of the Long Island Chapter of NYSCHECK

