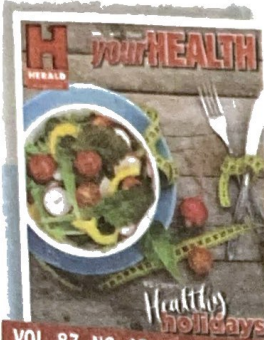


# HERALD

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Courtesy Freeport Housing Authority

**AFTER A DECADE** of operating at the recreation center, the Freeport Housing Authority plans to relocate to a new structure at 100 N. Main St. early next year. Members of the authority joined the general contractor and the architect last month to raise a flag at the site.

## Village housing authority finds a new home

By **MOHAMED FARGHALY**  
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Over a decade after Hurricane Sandy destroyed its previous headquarters, the Freeport Housing Authority is almost ready to move into its new Main Street home.

Ocean surge and gale-force winds devastated Freeport in October 2012. Floodwaters swamped Buffalo and Albany avenues, damaging the Moxey Rigby low-income housing complexes. The Freeport Housing

Authority was just yards away, at 3 Buffalo Ave. The work building and office was swamped with five feet of water and debris, destroying electronics, workstations, filing cabinets and paper records.

"I will tell you, the base was completely under water," said John Hrvatin, the authority's director. "All the mechanical systems were under water. The heating system? Under water. All of it was just destroyed."

The housing authority

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## PAL boxing gym gets a makeover in TV 'rescue'

By **MOHAMED FARGHALY**  
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The Freeport Police Activity League's boxing gym in Bishop Frank O. White Park got much more than a new coat of paint. In fact, Joe Higgins says his freshly renovated facility is a true knock-out with cutting-edge athletic equipment and modern locker rooms.

And he got a little help from George Oliphant, creator and star of the NBC home improvement show "George to the Rescue." The program collaborates with local communities to improve their quality of life

through major renovations.

In this particular case, Oliphant focused on the boxing gym with the hopes of creating something completely unique for the community.

"It was a lot to get everybody together, but they all did come together," Higgins said. "And, you know, it really gives the gym a chance to really get back into the upper echelon of amateur boxing."

Higgins, the president and boxing director at Freeport PAL, returned just in time for the 100 Parsons Ave., makeover after a stint as head coach of the Marine Corps boxing team. Higgins,

**T**hey're resting.  
 They're eating.  
 They're training.  
 Their glory is the competition.

**JOE HIGGINS**  
 Founder,  
 PAL Boxing Gym

a Marine veteran, was based out of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to coach the Marine Expeditionary Force's Martial Arts Center of Excellence boxing program.

"It was an unbelievable gig for two years," he said. "We literally had such an unbelievable run. We had a couple of national champions, international silver medalists, quite a few champions and achievements, and it was a wonderful run."

"That commitment now is just finished, and I'm back just in time as this gym has been filled out."

Oliphant and his television team reconstructed and expanded the facility with upgrades to roofing, framing, flooring, and wiring. They also installed new insulation while renovating the boxing ring itself, as well as swapping out for

new gym equipment.

The space was expanded to include a new, cutting-edge weight area, a new locker room, showers and restrooms.

Higgins had been approached by the show's producers for the makeover, and expected to take a hands-on role in shaping the project. Instead, the "George to the Rescue," team wanted to make it a complete surprise for Higgins, making him vow not to come into the park until everything was finished.

"I didn't even drive down here," Higgins said. "It wasn't easy, so I did not get

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# HERALD SCHOOLS

## Freeport Public Schools honors Education Board

**A**t the board of education meeting on Oct. 25, the Freeport Public School Board of Education celebrated a memorable evening as they were honored for their contributions to the community.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham, district administrators, union leaders, and staff expressed their gratitude and appreciation for board trustees and their commitment to making Freeport Schools an exceptional institution for educational success at a ceremony held at the Leo F. Giblyn Elementary School.

Superintendent Kuncham also thanked the trustees on behalf of the district administration and staff, "We take this opportunity to publicly honor our board trustees and express our gratitude for the crucial role our board of education plays within our district, on the Long Island level, the state level and the national level. Every action you take has always been based on what is best for our students and your service ensures that decisions about our schools are made by those who are most familiar with the needs of our community."

With their presentations, students from the Leo F. Giblyn School commemorated both Board Recognition Week and Hispanic Heritage Month. Eric Robinson and Sophia Brenes, first and fourth grade students, thanked the board of education for their service and for making Freeport Schools an outstanding district, and they presented the board trustees with a plaque stating the Giblyn Superstars morning slogan. The first-grade students then sang the lively song "Join the Celebración"



**THE FREEPORT PUBLIC** Schools Board of Education (Left to Right): Vice President Sunday Coward, Trustee Shuron Jackson, President Maria Jordan-Awalom and Trustee Ronald Ellerbe) was honored at the Oct. 25 board of education meeting in honor of School Board Recognition Week.

Courtesy Freeport Public Schools

from their Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

"Thank you for the wonderful recognitions this evening," said Ms. Maria Jordan-Awalom, Board of Education President. "It is our goal to make sure everything

we do has a positive impact on our students, and we could not do that without your support."

—Mohamed Farghaly

# All aboard for Grand Central

## LIRR arrives at Grand Central later this year

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