

FIRE ISLAND

Running for mom, cancer

Hundreds join brothers' 5k for tumor research

BY MARINA VILLENEUVE
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For Anthony and John DiGangi, summers used to mean idyllic afternoons exploring Fire Island with their two other brothers, sister and mother, Rose, a lover of the island's scenery.

When Rose was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2006, the two brothers — both recreational runners — decided to support brain tumor research by organizing an annual event, one eventgoers say is marked by the sort of hospitality Rose would have approved.

"It's how Mrs. D would have wanted it," John's wife, Amy DiGangi, 40, of Manhattan, said of her mother-in-law, who died in 2007. "She always wanted to be the best hostess possible."

In the past six years, the brothers have raised a total of about \$300,000 for the American Brain Tumor Association through their annual 5-kilometer — or 3.1-mile — race through Seaview, Ocean Bay Park and Ocean Beach.

Roughly 461 people ran yesterday's race, 178 more than last year's Run for Rose, which



Runners take to the Ocean Bay Park stretch of the Run for Rose 5k yesterday on Fire Island.

PHOTO BY JACK MCCOY

John said was dampened by 7 inches of rain.

Fire Island restrictions on motor vehicles make organizing a large event more challenging, said Anthony DiGangi. "We have to use golf carts and wagons to transport everything," he said.

But the close-knit island is what makes the race work, said his brother. "We just couldn't do this if it wasn't for the support of this community," said John DiGangi, 40, during a post-race celebration at the Schooner Inn, where he has been a bartender for 18

years.

Anthony, 33, agreed, noting that the food had been donated, much of it by local stores. As he explained that, a passing well-wisher hugged Anthony, congratulating him on the event.

As she walked away, John said, "It's just like that, people . . . coming up to me to show their support."

Ellie Mal, a Fire Island resident who volunteered at the post-race event, agreed. "We support them simply because we're a community that supports our community," she said.

The brothers said word has spread about the event, and people from across the tri-state area who have been personally affected by brain cancer have formed teams to raise funds.

For runner Justin Andrich, 27, of Bay Shore, the event was also personal. Andrich was part of a 71-person team from Declan Quinn's restaurant in Bay Shore.

"My mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor on March 22 this year," Andrich said. "I'm not a runner, but anything I can do to support brain cancer research, I will do."

MILL NECK

Cellphone antennas placed on hold

BY NATHANIEL HERZ
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The Village of Mill Neck board of trustees has become the latest North Shore municipality to pass a six-month moratorium on the siting and installation of cellular phone antennas and other telecommunications equipment.

Brookville and Old Brookville passed their own moratoria in July, and Matinecock will probably consider one at its September meeting.

"We need to take a look at it, in terms of making sure what is put up is aesthetic, that there are some controls on it," said Mill Neck Mayor Peter Quick.

The trustees' unanimous vote on Thursday came despite objections at the meeting by a representative for Crown Castle, the company that is seeking to install cellular signal boxes on three utility poles in the village.

Attorney David Bronston told the board that the moratorium would cause delays on the company's permit applications — which were filed in October — that would be a violation of several provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act.

"To add another six months or longer delay is really not permissible," Bronston said.

Quick said the trustees disagreed with Crown Castle's position that the village's action was illegal.

Mill Neck had submitted its draft ordinance to the Nassau County Planning Commission, which recommended a moratorium running for three months, rather than six. But the village overrode that recommendation Thursday.

Mill Neck currently has no ordinance governing telecommunications, and Quick said the moratorium would give the village time to develop one.

To help draft its ordinance, Mill Neck has hired the same North Carolina consultant, Rusty Monroe, being used by both Brookville and Old Brookville.

Crown Castle has applications pending with more than a half dozen North Shore villages.

HUNTINGTON

Downtown parking issues studied

BY DEBORAH S. MORRIS
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For years, the busy weekend scene in downtown Huntington has presented a problem town leaders do not altogether mind having: a lack of parking.

"If you look at it in a positive light, to have a parking issue is a blessing, because it means we have a vibrant village," said Patricia Grant, a member of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce. "It is a problem nonetheless. That's why we decided to do a complete analysis of our parking issues and get recommendations."

A group called the Hunting-

ton Village Consortium recently formed to look at the problem and figure out a permanent parking solution. The group is composed of representatives from the Town of Huntington, the town's Economic Development Corporation, the Huntington Village Business Improvement District Association, the Paramount Theater and the chamber.

The consortium recently commissioned Manhattan-based Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates, which specializes in parking management planning, to analyze parking availability, parking flow, municipal parking lots and metered parking downtown.

The five consortium members will pay \$7,906 each to fund the study.

Supervisor Frank Petrone said town officials have tried different solutions to alleviate some of the parking concerns, including extending surface parking in the eight municipal lots by more than 100 spaces.

"Everybody is of the opinion that there are different things that can be done," Petrone said, adding there was a lot of support for the study.

"Naturally, we are open to creative ways to alleviate some of the parking issues . . . and to help get the ball rolling on what needs to be done," Do-

minick Catoggio, an owner of the Paramount Theater, said.

Petrone said a parking structure — long considered unwelcome in the downtown area — will be discussed, but building one is not the goal. "That would be millions of dollars," he said. "Certainly you don't want to go out and spend that if you don't have to."

He said there may be other options. "The simplest thing is some long-term parking, looking at our parking lots and re-striping," Petrone said. "Now, the outcome could be a garage but how big? Is it needed right now? This study will answer all these questions."