



N/O

COVID-19

NYC DROPS INDOOR VAX RULES MONDAY

LI EATERIES: MORE PANDEMIC RELIEF ESSENTIAL

POLL: SPLIT ON RETURNING TO 'NORMAL LIFE'

A5-7



AP / SETH WENIG

UKRAINE INVASION

CIVILIANS

UNDER FIRE

- Russian shelling halts evacuation efforts
- U.S., Poland weigh plan to provide Ukraine with fighter jets
- Donations pour in from Long Islanders

A2-4 | VIDEO AT TV.NEWSDAY.COM



A woman is carried by Ukrainian soldiers while fleeing the town of Irpin, Ukraine, Sunday.

AP / OLEKSANDR RATUSHNAK

LONG BEACH

Pot referendum petition ruled invalid

City Council: Not enough qualified signatures on it

BY JOHN ASBURY

john.asbury@newsday.com

Long Beach City Council members denied a petition by advocates seeking a referendum on opening recreational marijuana stores, saying verified signatures fell short.

The City Council formally rejected the petition during the

March 1 meeting, citing state law, once advocates qualified for the 1,260 signatures required to make the ballot. Once petitions were verified, only about 300 signatures qualified.

Activists had collected about 700 signatures during the 45-day collection period in January after city officials decided to opt out of marijuana sales last year.

"The signatures did not meet the constitutional requirement. There will not be a referendum on this issue," Long Beach corporation counsel Richard Berrios said.

City Council members said

they opted out of marijuana sales last year under a state deadline. The city's opt out triggered a permissive referendum for residents to petition for the ballot, matching 10% of the city's voter turnout during the 2018 gubernatorial election, officials said.

Signatures were required from city residents who were registered in the last election, officials said.

About half of the signatures submitted on the petition were disqualified either because voters were not registered during the last election, signatures were not Long Beach resi-

den's, signatures were not verified or were illegible, according to the city clerk.

Berrios said at the meeting that the city is not able to add a referendum to the ballot without state legislation.

Long Beach City Council President Karen McInnis said the city has not made any final decisions.

"The council always has the opportunity to opt in if it chooses. Nothing is off the table," McInnis said. "We are awaiting state guidance on how facilities will be set up and administered, as well as projec-

tions of revenue and sales tax and feedback from the community."

Activists said they were hindered while collecting signatures during a blizzard in January and a surge during the pandemic. "We knew we had fallen short of our goal, but it wasn't going to deter us from turning in our petition. We still wanted to make it clear a good portion of people in town are in favor of forcing a referendum on this issue," said Nathaniel Epstein of Lido Beach. "If you believe only 300 residents want retail cannabis, you're mistaken."

SETAUKET

1847 barn to be part of history museum

BY CARL MACGOWAN

carl.macgowan@newsday.com

A 19th-century barn that had stood on an Old Field farm is set to become the centerpiece of a Setauket history museum.

The Three Village Historical Society plans to rebuild the barn inside a new \$1.3 million museum under construction at the society's North Country Road headquarters. Ground was broken Saturday, and the museum is scheduled to open next year, society officials said.

The museum will be called the Dominick-Crawford Barn Exhibit and Education Center, referring to two of the barn's previous owners, the Dominick and Crawford families.

Historical society director Mari Irizarry said she hopes the barn helps future visitors feel like they have gone back in time.

"Once you look inside and look up, it'll make you feel like you're in the old building," Irizarry told Newsday. "We envision it to be this new hub in the Three Village area where the society and community members and beyond can look at this space [and] they can come and create."

The museum will include the society's archives, including papers from the families of developer Ward Melville and Revolutionary War-era Culper spy ring supporter Anna Strong, Irizarry said.

Those archives currently are stored in the society's cramped

headquarters and at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library in East Setauket, she said.

The barn had stood since 1847 on Old Field Road in the Village of Old Field until about a decade ago, when the village donated it to the historical society.

The barn was dismantled and its pieces cataloged so it could be rebuilt at its new home in Setauket, historical society president Jeff Schnee said. The 2½-story museum will be built around the barn, which will serve as a focal point for public exhibits, he said.

The society has been given a \$300,000 state grant for the project and received \$350,000 from the nonprofit Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation of Hampton Bays, Irizarry said, adding the society plans to raise more money through fundraisers and private donations.

"We'll need all the help we can get to raise the remaining \$650,000," Irizarry said. "We're confident our community will really come through and help out."

Assemb. Steven Englebright (D-Setauket) said the new museum will join other local landmarks in Setauket's historical district. "They give us a sense of place, a sense of continuity and connection to our past and connect us to the present generation, and give us a sense of what the community foundations, if you will, have been," he said. "The historical society is very important to the self-image of the community."



Three Village Historical Society president Jeff Schnee and director Mari Irizarry at the museum site.



Wood from the 19th-century barn will be used in the new structure. The barn was dismantled and its pieces cataloged so it could be rebuilt.



A rendering of the new Dominick-Crawford Barn Exhibit and Education Center that will use elements from the 1847 barn in its construction.