

THE ROUNDUP

HILLSWESTROUNDUP.COM

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

VOLUME: 35 ISSUE: 1

HURRICANE SANDY ISSUE

LET'S HELP CLEAN UP!



A teacher cleans up the Mazel Academy in Brooklyn after Hurricane Sandy flooded the ground floor. Photo Credit: Ben Harris

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Long Beach School District

**How to Help:
The Aftermath
of Hurricane
Sandy**

Our Story
Hills West
Experiences from
Hurricane Sandy

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A Letter From the Roundup Staff

Dear Reader,

Superstorm Sandy has reshaped our school year in many ways; moreover, the direct impact that it has had on the lives of so many Long Islanders has been devastating. Although many of us were forced to deal with inconveniences, there are still many on Long Island who are without power and a place to call home. Thus, The Roundup decided to help our Long Island community, as well as share the news that is pertinent to all of our experiences.

You may notice that this special edition issue has several advertisements. These vendors have paid for these advertisements, and these funds are going towards the Long Beach School District. The donations that you have contributed will be going there as well.

The Roundup staff has moved in a new direction, and we are excited to share our new website with you this year.

(hillswestroundup.com) Our goal has always been and continues to be to inform the student body and Hills West community of the events that affect all of our lives.

It is in times of need like this that we can all come together to make a difference.

*Sincerely,
The Roundup Staff*

Hampton Inn Becomes Hampton "Out!"

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, thousands of out-of-state workers rushed to aid those in need of help during the recovery process. These people traveled hundreds of miles away from their families and homes out of the goodness of their hearts, but instead of being received with a warm welcome, some of these workers were being sent back home.

Workers from the Harlan Electric Co. in Detroit, Michigan said that they were being forced out of their hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn in Islandia. They had been staying there for two weeks helping to re-

store power to Long Island, but then were told they had to leave by November 9th, as the rooms they occupied were booked by other patrons. Many people felt the out-of-state workers were a positive and necessary factor in the post-Sandy reconstruction. An anonymous source said, "The workers were very friendly and courteous, and said that all they wanted to do was stay and help us."

Many of our fellow Hills West students also feel the treatment of the out-of-state workers is unjust. Tara Ranjbar, a freshman here at HSW had this to say: "The Harlan Electric workers were trying their best to give power back to those who lost it during Sandy. They didn't deserve to be kicked out of their hotel room. They were being treated terribly by people, which is cruel and unfair because they were trying their hardest to give power

back. They should be treated with respect because they are helping everyone who was affected by this storm." The rooms were being paid for by LIPA, so it didn't make sense as to why they were being kicked out as the rooms were being paid for either way.

Many people, including Huntington Councilwoman Susan A. Berland, suggested these workers stay at the firehouse where there are established sleeping quarters. This, however,

has been received negatively, due to the fact that it sends a message of ungratefulness. A source from the Commack Fire Dept commented that "several dozen out-of-state utility workers sought housing at the firehouse."

Even in situations other than this one, many of the out-of-state workers have been treated with hostility from the residents of Long Island. On November 14th, an electrical worker from Florida was brutally beaten in East Hempstead, after working a 13-hour

shift to help restore power. The Harlan Electric workers have finished their work, so there is no information on their whereabouts as of now. When contacted, the Hampton Inn had no comment.



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SMITHTOWN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

*Scott D. Kaplan, D.V.M.
Kim L. Bergendorff, D.V.M.*

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Changes to the 2012-2013 School Calendar

Asad Marghoob

<u>SEPTEMBER 2012</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
(3)	(4)	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
(17)	(18)	19	20	21
24	25	(26)	27	28

<u>OCTOBER 2012</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
1	2	3	4	5
(8)	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

<u>NOVEMBER 2012</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
			1	2
5	(6)	7	8	9
(12)	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	(22)	(23)
26	27	28	29	30

<u>DECEMBER 2012</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)
(31)				

<u>JANUARY 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
	(1)	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
(21)	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Sept.	3	Labor Day
Sept.	4	Supt. Conf. Day
Sept.	5	First Day of School
Sept.	17, 18	Rosh Hashanah
Sept.	26	Yom Kippur
Oct.	8	Columbus Day
Oct. 29-Nov 6		Emergency Closing
Nov.	8	Emergency Closing
Nov.	12	Veterans Day
Nov.	22, 23	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec.	24 -	Christmas / New
Jan.	1	Years Recess
Jan.	21	Martin Luther
		King Day
Feb.	18	President's Day
Feb.	19-22	School in Session
Mar.	26-29	Spring Recess
May	27	Memorial Day
May	28	School in Session
June	21	Last Day of School

DAYS IN ATTENDANCE

EACH MONTH

September	15	+	1
October	19		
November	14		
December	15		
January	21		
February	19		
March	17		
April	22		
May	22		
June	15		

TOTAL: 179 + 1

179 Student Attendance Days

1 ORIENTATION AND

CONFERENCE DAY

180 Total Days

Emergency Days

[] School may elect to be in session

<u>FEBRUARY 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
[18]	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

<u>MARCH 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	(26)	[27]	[28]	(29)

<u>APRIL 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

<u>MAY 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
(27)	28	29	30	31

<u>JUNE 2013</u>				
<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
[24]	[25]	[26]	(27)	(28)

Credit: HHH.k12.ny.us

Mr. Toles, a guidance counselor at Hills West and an active Board member of the Harborfields School district, said that the state legislature would not have a formal statement on what the changes would be until sometime as late as January. "There will probably not be any February break," predicted sophomore Maxine Fenner. "They might even extend the end of the year," guessed sophomore Elan Sharony.

Although schedule changes were initially uncertain and the state legislature's statement has not been released, the district has made alterations to

the school calendar to accommodate past and future weather challenges.

On November 29th, the district released an in-depth synopsis of the changes to the calendar. In January, high school students will not have a formal midterm week. However, the primary change to the calendar is the fact that school will be in session February 19, 20, 21, 22 and May 28. These first four days make up most of our February break or President's week. These February days are Tuesday through Friday, leaving Monday (President's day) with school off. May 28th was an emergency

day that, with the exception of last year, school usually turns out to be in session. People are understandably annoyed with these changes, as planning vacations ahead of time is relatively common. For students attending the Spain and France/Italy language trips, the trips are still on.

Although the district lost a total of seven days for students' attendance and one for superintendent conferences, the district only had to make up five. Thankfully the district, prior to both weather events, had scheduled for 183 school days, exceeding the mandatory number by three days. After-

wards, seven school days and a conference day were lost, resulting in 175 days left in the calendar. To meet the 180 day standard once again, school must now be open for five additional days. Contrary to popular belief, the 180 days is not arbitrary, it is state law. Mrs. Salerno from the principal's office commented, "Although people had things planned, rules are rules and we have to follow them."

However, what happens if we have any more snow days? These emergency days have been changed to February 18th, March 27th, and March 28th. If we have one snow day,

there will be school on February 18th; if we have two, there will be school on the 18th and March 27th; and three snow days will result in school on March 28th as well, which will take away days from spring break.

If even more days must be cancelled due to extenuating circumstances, the district will have post-regents days on June 24th, 25th, and 26th. These days will be open for staff only. This satisfies some students' concerns, particularly those who thought there was a possibility of the end of the school year being extended for students.

Temple Beth Torah Gives Back By: Lea Silverman



Photo: Volunteer Expeditions

Temple Beth Torah teens volunteering in New Orleans.

As one of the largest temples on Long Island, Temple Beth Torah (TBT) feels responsible to help out in any way its congregation can. Immediately after the worst of Hurricane Sandy had passed, congregation members began dropping off anything they could spare.

These donations included food, water, clothing, toys, and other various items.

Ironically, the teen youth group of TBT had planned a trip to New Orleans a week after the arrival of Sandy to help with the relief from Hurricane Katrina, even though the storm had left its mark seven years

prior. It seemed odd to most in the group that they would be helping out with a disaster that had happened seven years ago when a tragedy had occurred in their own backyards a week before, but it was important to the teens of TBT to help those who knew what they were experiencing. "I had

an amazing time helping others, even though I knew that people needed help here," said East senior DiDi Poliak, "It was a very rewarding experience to help people that have needed it for years."

Her twin, Nicki Poliak, added, "The trip allowed me, as well as the other members of our group, to help out people affected by Sandy, and we got to use our [new] skills and what we learned to make a difference here at home as well [as in New Orleans]."

The trip to New Orleans consisted of helping out at a food bank, painting and restoring a post-hurricane home, and assisting a farm that provides fresh produce to the community. Although the population of Long Island itself is larger than the whole state of Louisiana, the situation helped put things in perspective for the TBT teens. They learned

that things could have been much worse, and that it was possible that Long Island could still need help getting back on its feet in seven years.

As soon as the teens returned, the relief effort on Long Island meant so much more to them. Since their homecoming, TBT has brought together the congregation to make sandwiches and deliver them to people in Long Beach who had no food or were helping to rebuild the community. It was especially rewarding to all participants who could empathize with these affected people.

Temple Beth Torah continues to help all those whom they can. Any person who wants to contribute to the effort can drop off items at Temple Beth Torah in Melville, or donate money or canned foods to Island Harvest. Go to www.islandharvest.org



Photo: Volunteer Expeditions

Lea Silverman lending a hand at a food pantry in New Orleans.

Sandy In Perspective:

A History of Long Island Hurricanes

Jesse Scheinman

Long Island, far from the tropical environment of the Caribbean, is generally not known for being hit by tropical systems, especially hurricanes. But when they do come to this island, as evident by Hurricane Sandy, the damage is immense. Over the past hundreds of years, there have been a few notable hurricanes and tropical storms that have had similar effects on Long Island as Hurricane Sandy, which made landfall as a Category 1 storm.

1804

1804: A rare snow hurricane dropped 30 inches of snow on Long Island.

1938

The most powerful storm to hit Long Island in modern history was the Long Island Express Hurricane. It is also referred to as the New England Hurricane of 1938, and it ran through the northeast with Category 3 force winds, killing 682 people and destroying 57,000 homes.



Long Island Express Hurricane - 1938

1960

Hurricane Donna made landfall as a Category 2 storm. However, due to preparations before the storm, the damage was not too severe and no deaths were reported.

1985

Hurricane Gloria hit Long Island as a Category 2 storm, with wind gusts of 100 mph. While equal in wind strength to Hurricane Sandy, the storm was not as wide or devastating. It destroyed 48 homes and contributed 300 million dollars of damage in 1985 dollars.



Hurricane Gloria -1985

2011

Tropical Storm Irene just missed being classified as a hurricane when it hit southern Long Island, instead meteorologists referred to it as a strong tropical storm. Irene left 350,000 Long Island homes and businesses without power, about a third of the number that Sandy left powerless. However, Irene was smaller in size compared to Sandy and did not have Sandy's vicious storm surge, so the actual damage caused was not as severe.

2012

Hurricane Sandy made landfall in New Jersey as a Category 1 storm, but combined with another weather system to create a "superstorm" with a diameter of 1,100 miles. Sandy caused an estimated 65 billion dollars in damages, the second most expensive storm, Hurricane Katrina being the first. After the storm dissipated, Sandy caused 253 deaths throughout the U.S and the Caribbean.



Hurricane Sandy - 2012

LIPA

Assessment

Although most of Long Island has already recovered from the damaging aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, LIPA has suffered many setbacks that may impact the company's future. Currently, LIPA remains culpable for the delay in power restoration of the majority of Long Island as well as poor readiness and warnings to its customers.

In addition to the setbacks regarding LIPA's lack of responsibility, the company will soon be under the leadership of a new CEO after current CEO, Michael Hervey, steps down at the end of the month. Though experience in "implementing storm hardening policies," as stated in his executive biography, had previously earned him high recognition, the intensity and estimated destruction from Sandy was gravely underestimated. This underestimation resulted in leaving many individuals unaware of the potential danger of the

storm, which ranged from extensive power outages to damaged, flooded homes in hard-hit areas.

Despite the condemnation Hervey is currently receiving from the majority of Long Island, many remain skeptical that a new CEO will bring necessary changes to the company. Junior Alana Kessler commented, "[LIPA is] years behind in technology that other electric companies use, and the whole company and its electric system needs a renovation, in order for something like this not to happen again." This statement is supported by the recent state report condemning the company's inadequate preparation for storms over the past few years and LIPA's outdated computer system which hindered worried customers from being able to contact LIPA during the aftermath of the storm.

Customers responded to the slow progress of restoration with mixed reac-

tions. "It would have made things a lot easier if our power was restored at a faster rate, but I understand that there was a lot to be done and LIPA couldn't restore everyone's power immediately," stated junior Carly Berger. Despite the hard work of thousands of LIPA employees and out-of-state workers to quickly help damaged areas, many met the gradual progress and longevity of the power outage with frustration. "I was disappointed that LIPA was unable to work faster to return our power, especially since the weather was getting cold," said junior Dia Su.

Similar to the majority of LIPA customers, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York was dissatisfied with the recovery improvement. He is determined to hold the company responsible for its delay in returning en-

ergy back to homes and for the lack of communication between the company and its customers. It has been acknowledged by LIPA that the lack of communication between the company and its customers regarding up-

dates and information was due to an outdated computer system, which posed a similar issue when Hurricane Irene hit in 2011.

In addition to the outdated system, LIPA reported that they did not plan to compile a supply of utility poles in case of further unanticipated damages from the storm; without the utility poles, LIPA faced difficulties reporting outages to the company stations immediately. As a result, Governor Cuomo issued an investigation concerning how utility companies prepared for and reacted to Sandy.

Additionally, LIPA is encountering lawsuits, lead by Attorney Kenneth Mollins of Nassau County, claiming that the company was oblivious and inattentive to the potential dangers and risks of Hurricane Sandy prior to the storm itself. Further claims from customers include "grossly under-budgeted" preparation for the superstorm as well as "rudimentary storm and damage prediction models." LIPA has yet to provide a response to the claims in the lawsuit.

All in all, LIPA's preparation and recovery process has been unsatisfactory and "[has] failed customers," as stated by Governor Cuomo. As a result, the company is forced to face class action lawsuits in which LIPA customers are encouraged to participate.



Photo: Steve Reilly



Graphic: Lexi Weber

- Monica Chen

How to Help: The Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

By: Andrew Baker and Arindam Jurakhan

As Long Islanders, it is our duty to help those desperately in need in our area. There are many efforts in our area to aid these people.

Junior Josh Bainnson shared his experiences from the storm, "During the hurricane, we lost power for a week and went to stay with my grandparents. Then when the nor'easter hit, our home was the place to go for anyone that needed heat, a bed, food, or power." Many people like Bainnson opened up their homes to their family and friends who needed a place to stay after the storm. Junior Swasti Mehta also commented on how the hurricane affected her, "We were without power for a few days and our friends al-

lowed us to stay over. When we got our power back we returned the favor to them by lending our house because we had WiFi while they still didn't."

While Long Islanders attempt to return to their normal lives, some are still unable to do so. As of December 10th, there are approximately 209 LIPA customers on Long Island that are still without power. One Melville attorney is filing a class action lawsuit against LIPA and National Grid for their negligence and recklessness during this time of need in Long Island. The cleanup efforts are still evident as there are many areas in our community with downed trees and stray wires, even present on Wolf Hill Road.

The gas rationing has ended and many parts of Long Island are beginning to return to normalcy; however, many citizens are still volunteering in areas all across Long Island to help those devastated from Sandy. Since there are Long Islanders struggling in cold and powerless homes, there are many relief opportunities set up all over Long Island.

For example, all Ace Hardware Stores are serving as drop-off locations for non-perishable food items and clothing donations to those in need on the south shore of Long Island. Also, the Long Beach Rec Center could always use more volunteers to help unpack or sort clothing, and distribute donated items.

Long Island Cares is

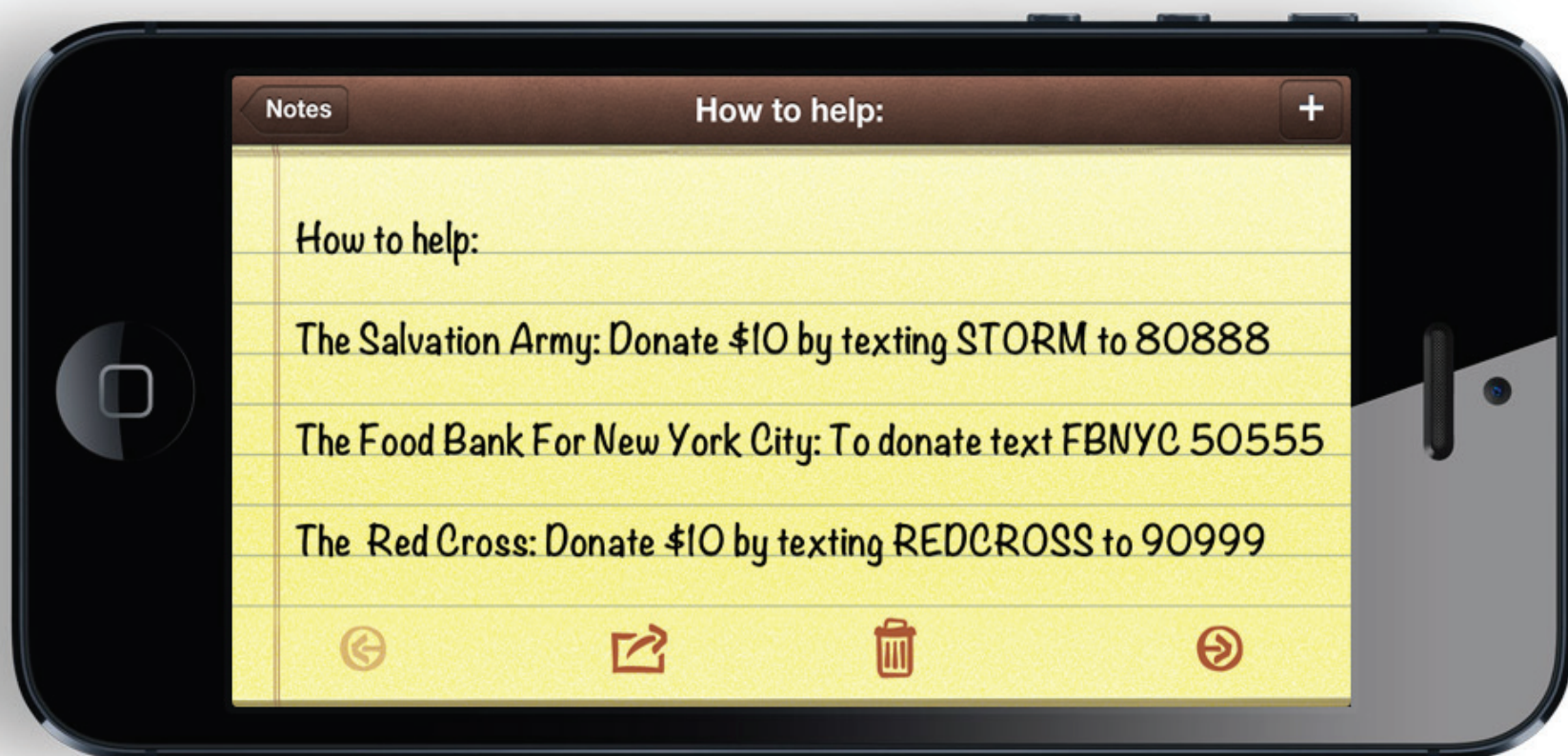
needs volunteers to help sort food donations so that they can be distributed as quickly as possible. In addition, to sign up to volunteer with the Red Cross, visit: www.nyredcross.org or donate to FEMA, a federal organization offering relief for rebuilding efforts throughout Long Island. Lastly, NYC Service, Congregation Beth Elohim, and Occupy Sandy are all actively looking for volunteers to help areas all around the island. Information can be found on each of their websites on how to get involved.

It's understandable that many of us are too young or do not have the accessibility to volunteer, but many organizations are accepting donations as well. Staten Island Recovers is

coordinating "community-powered disaster recovery" for Staten Island and they are accepting donations of clothing, tools, and any other helpful items you may have.

NYC.gov lists Public Emergency Shelters for Hurricane Sandy that are also taking donations for Staten Island, along with several other areas in New York City. *Food Not Bombs* is taking donations for not only New York City, but Boston and Philadelphia as well. Many organizations are even letting people donate through text message.

Listed below are a couple of organizations that do exactly that, along with their numbers:



Graphic by Jordan Camina

West sophomore Morgan Rampolla shared her experience: "My aunt, who lives in Long Beach, is currently living with us because of the damage Hurricane Sandy has caused. Because I can relate to the stories of those in even more need, my friend, Gabby Barone, and I went to a nearby church to bag basic goods and prepare bagels for the homeless. It was a very rewarding experience. I also donated hats and gloves to those in the cold at a nearby temple."

While most students at Hills West may not be feeling the effects of Hurricane Sandy any longer, there are many on Long Island who still do. For more information on what you can do to help with the Hurricane Sandy restoration efforts, follow @SandyVolunteer on twitter, visit the HHH Patch, or go to News12.com.

Rachel Shuster: From the BIF-8 Conference to Sandy Efforts

By Asad Marghoob

On November 10, just days after the storm, Juniors Rachel Shuster and Carly Berger decided to have their mothers drive them around to find any possible way in which they could help those in need. They came across a temporary American Red Cross camp, where they were able to aid Red Cross volunteers in delivering food to take to different parts of the state.

"We pulled into the parking lot of a public pool in Deer Park; we were looking for ways to help victims of Hurricane Sandy and we were unsure how to help. There were a lot of American Red Cross trucks lined up throughout the parking lot. The volunteers instructed us to load packaged food on to the truck," said Carly Berger. Shuster commented, "It was amazing to see people's faces light up...It was mind-boggling to see how many people

were in need right around the corner from us." After helping to load the trucks with hot meals and snacks, the two were able to directly deliver the prepared food to Seaford.

In addition to helping out around the community, Sandy has inspired Shuster to reach out to victims via social media. Shuster has created a Facebook page called "Sandy Moments of Service" to publicize both the various ways in which people have helped out the community and how people have been helped by the community. Shuster felt that the storm had brought the community together and created the desire to help out neighbors in need, and that it was important to document people's experiences.

Shuster's demonstrated community service efforts are not limited to Sandy relief. Shuster founded a success-



American Red Cross trucks lined up in Deer Park ready to deliver hot meals to Long Islanders in need.

ful charity organization known as the HHH Kids Care Club. This is an organization which emphasizes the efforts of kids when it comes to community service. Shuster's primary motivation in forming the club was so that kids could "plan projects and events on their own." She explained that kids

can really have an impact when working together, as evident through her and Berger's relief efforts.

Shuster was recognized for her club and her focus on community service when she was invited to speak at the eighth annual business conference of the Business Innovation Factory's Summit (BIF-8). BIF-8 is a function where hundreds of organization founders meet, share, and collaborate their individual achievements associated with their fields of business. The BIF is a platform on which individuals can work together to test and implement solutions to problems in society's systems such as education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and more. The organization believes in three ideas that encapsulate what they do: collaboration of many individuals to bring about innovation, inspiration, and transformation of the future with new ideas. The BIF-8

Summit Shuster attended consisted of 30 guest speakers, willing to tell their stories to an audience of over 400 innovators, founders, presidents of companies, or soon to be innovators and presidents. Shuster, one of two youth speakers out of these thirty bright minds, spoke about her HHH Kids Care Club and ideas to get the youth inspired and heavily involved with helping out the community.

"I really enjoyed being a speaker as I got to spread my mission of engaging youth in not only service, but all aspects of society, and that youth have a voice and can make a difference. Of course I was little nervous standing on a stage alone in front of 400 adults but I loved the experience and forgot about how many people were in the audience, and just spoke from my heart."

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Pain at the Pump

Long Lines and High Prices Make Driving Tough

Which is more insane: waiting hours in line for gas or waiting hours in line for gas that costs over four dollars a gallon? We've all heard of the oil crisis of the 1970's and scoffed at the idea of encountering a similar dilemma in our generation. Hurricane Sandy proved us wrong.

Senior Dominic Notti commented, "I just tried to drive only when it was necessary because I might not have been able to get [gas]."

"I was really scared to get gas because I thought I was always going to run out so I saved all of my gas. I felt like it was really important to have a full tank of gas during a time of need like that," added senior Dani Silber.

The students weren't the only ones to be affected by the gas shortage. Art teacher Mrs. Montiglio said that the gas situation made everything "difficult and stressful." She added, "I could only go out and drive when it was absolutely a necessity." Although seniors could have taken the bus to school, it would have been tougher for the faculty to get to school if the shortage continued for longer than it did.

The past few weeks have brought us back to re-

ality as shown by the slow recovery in the Dix Hills area. Governor Andrew Cuomo had originally said that the gas shortage would be resolved by Election Day, but this turned out to be a grave underestimation. Fortunately, on November 9th, the launch of the odd and even day system for obtaining gas eliminated most lines. The system worked like this: cars with license plates that end in an odd number or a letter could fill up at gas stations on odd numbered days of the month (9th, 11th, etc.), and cars with license plates that end in even numbers could fill up on even numbered days (10th, 12th, etc.). This system was very successful in cutting down lines. The rationing ended in Suffolk and Nassau County after only one week, while New York City decided to continue the rationing an extra week.

Not only was there a problem with the availability of gas, but the price of gas has gone up on the island as well. Although gas prices have decreased nationally, price gouging has meant that the tri-state area has had to pay up to \$4.50 for a gallon of regular gas in the past few weeks. Price gouging occurs when a business (in this case gas stations)

raises the prices of its products to unreasonable amounts because of an increase in demand and reduction in supply.

At least 13 gas stations are being investigated for this, and it is suspected that many more are responsible for price gouging. Gas prices do seem to be declining though, with average prices dropping down to \$3.57 a gallon as of December 10th in Nassau and Suffolk County. Hopefully these lower prices are a sign of things to come.

How can Long Island avoid another calamity like this in the future? Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern has introduced a bill that would require gas stations to have alternative ways to generate power, which would keep the station running even without power from LIPA. Unfor-

tunately, a plan to prevent a gas shortage after a hurricane has not been offered up yet. Considering Long Island has suffered from two hurricanes in the past two years, we can only hope that problems with handling storms can be re-

solved so we can be better equipped for the future. This gas crisis after Hurricane Sandy truly put Long Islanders in a period of distress even after the superstorm. It also raises questions about the ability of Long Island to get gas and gas shipments if further problems occur.

- Anthony Passela



Graphic:
Lexi Weber



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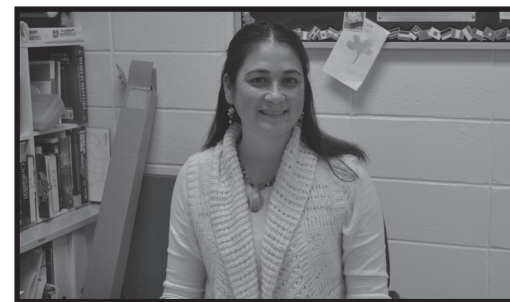
Sandhiya Kannan

"While I felt an inconvenience by the lack of power for 12 days, overall it felt like such a surreal experience. Where I live, everyone was outside and walking around, helping and talking to people in the town. There was a lot of communication taking place. It is certainly very trying when it's cold and people don't have heat, but we learned how to improvise. It was wonderful when the lights came back and I could have cried with joy, but it was definitely an interesting experience. My whole family got to spend time together, and we started doing board games, doing all kinds of activities. I can look back at it now and smile, but it was definitely a devastating event for many." - Señora Muñoz

"It was the most p
and I can't believe
really lucky and w
huge trees fell ne
If they had fallen
crushed my house

"Everyone, as usual when there's a disaster, came together and helped each other out, which is of course wonderful. It's just such a shame that it always takes a disaster to bring people together. I think the good part about having something like this happen to you is that you get more family time: you have no television, no internet, no telephone. We cut down the tree that was blocking our car eventually, but in the mean time we played family games and spent time together. Trying to find ways to help everyone in need is very frustrating, because I like to help people out, and I found I couldn't get to them since I couldn't get out of my own area. Helping them later on though, like by giving them needed supplies, donating clothes and money, and giving a lot of aid through my church made me feel better about the whole thing." - Mrs. Grech

"The first thing I have to say is that I dislike LIPA, since I lost power for 15 days. I would send text messages [to LIPA], and they would say I'd have power at four o'clock, but 13 days later...still not a fan of LIPA. I'm probably going to cut down more trees, because I don't want to take any chances come future storms. On the other hand, it was really nice to see everyone in my neighborhood bond together and help each other out." - Mrs. Lislevatn



"After losing power for nearly 12 days, Hurricane Sandy really made me realize what a luxury it is to have electricity 24/7. A massive tree fell on my sunroom, but thankfully didn't destroy anything but a few parts of the roof. Because of all the damage done around our neighborhood, we were barricaded in our house until a day after the storm. Next time, we'll definitely be more prepared for a superstorm like this." -Senior Sanjay Jonnavithula

"During the hurricane itself and its aftereffects, I felt that friends, family, and even the community joined together to support one another. I lost power for 12 days, so for people like me who were writing a college essay, it was [the] time extension that gave me relief." -Senior Andrew Won



"It wasn't that bad during the hurricane because my family stayed at my aunt's since she didn't lose power at all. I lost power for 20 days and then it finally came back on November 18th. The struggle was then over and we moved back into our own house." -Senior TediMarie Marotti

"I lost power for 8 days which completely isolated me from the world, had no heat in the house, but luckily had hot water. We stocked up on gas beforehand, so we drove around in our cars to warm ourselves up. Overall, I was really impressed at how people everywhere came together to work towards a common goal." -Senior Abhi Kudaravalli

"I only lost power for 4 days because the electric lines for my house were connected to the fire department. However, I noticed that you don't realize the importance of something until you need it the most. The search for generators was out of control, but migrating from house to house to take a shower was interesting." -Senior Hana Park



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"My family is very lucky to have a generator, so we invited family friends who lost power to stay at our house. Our experience was not bad at all, especially when compared to people who had no power for weeks or lost their homes. However, my grandpa, who lives in Long Beach, had a lot of his town destroyed. I visited him the other day and saw that the town was in very bad shape- garbage was everywhere and houses were emptied because everything in them was destroyed from flooding. Luckily, he lives in an apartment and did not lose his home, but the devastation caused by Sandy there was incredible." -Sophomore Rose Bender



Hurricane Sandy swept through Long Island over the course of only two days, leaving behind a devastated population and damage that took weeks to undo. While some people had to deal with more hardships than others, there is no argument that this storm has had a major impact on all of West students' lives. Many students and teachers at West had a lot to say about their own experiences during the storm and its aftermath.

"A powerful natural disaster I've ever seen hit Long Island, and how long some people had to go without power. I got lucky, I didn't lose power for more than a few hours, but a few days later I went to my house & pulled up the entire sidewalks with them. The other way instead of into the street they would have been." -Sophomore Brandon Nomberg

Photo: Amanda Zwerin



"Seeing two guys pull out guns, steal all the gas, and drive away was really crazy and it just shows how difficult situations can potentially bring out the worst in people. I only lost power for two nights, so the storm didn't affect me significantly, but I grew extremely thankful for my situation after I realized that I was one of few people that had power back. Once I told my friends and family that I got my power back, my house quickly turned into a hotel for a week, housing up to fifteen people at one point. I felt very grateful that I was able to provide a safe and warm shelter for many people." -Junior Harris Durkovic



"I got really lucky during the hurricane since I only lost power for two hours, but now all my friends are mad at me for not inviting them over to share in the electricity. I [actually feel] pretty guilty that I got to keep power and most other people lost theirs. I especially felt bad for all the people with actual damage to their homes and possessions, when all I really lost was a week of school. The hurricane was just a horrible thing overall, and I'm really sorry for all the people who were hurt by it." -Senior Wasif Islam

"I think it was nice the way a lot of people came together to help neighbors and family friends. Obviously it was a horrible storm, and I don't think there's anyone who wasn't affected by it. Even though I didn't lose power, I had a lot of family and friends whose homes had been significantly damaged, so I was glad to help them out." - Mr. Caligiuri

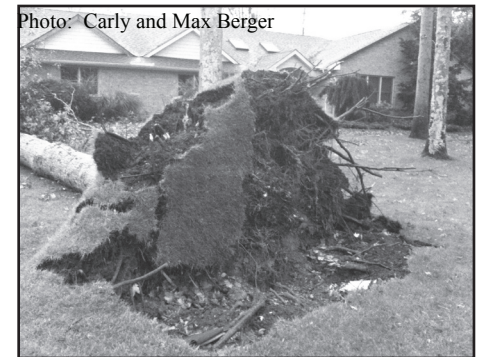


"Life was terrible. My house was 45 degrees and the only hot water I had was boiled on the barbecue. The only thing to look forward to was going to sleep that night. We couldn't go anywhere because it was virtually impossible to get gas. LIPA did a whole lot of nothing to help leaving us out of power for 12 days. Overall it was a miserable experience. People were worse off though, and our prayers go out to them." -Junior Travis Schwartz

"We had no electricity for seven days, but I had to keep remembering - I still had my house and my family, so I did what I could to help anyone in need. It's devastating what happened on the shores of Long Island, and the people who were displaced from their homes. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to handle something like this better in the future." - Mrs. Woodworth

"The storm did hit me pretty hard, but it was just a loss of a lot of possessions, things that can be replaced, so we're okay. My heart goes out to the people who lost their entire homes and businesses, who have no job or place to go. For me it was an inconvenience, but for others it was truly a devastation." - Mrs. Davidson

Photo: Carly and Max Berger



"I was one of the luckier few that only lost power for about 5 days. The night of, Elana and I had submitted our Common Applications not three hours before the power went out. The following week off [from school] I went to work, carpooling with coworkers because of gas, but whenever I got home we had to all use this complicated system of flashlights and lanterns. I would charge all of my appliances in the car or at my job, but for the most part I was unable to do anything after 6:00 because of how dark it got. I couldn't have been happier when the power finally switched back on." -Senior Lexi Weber



Photo: Rachel Shuster

Food and supplies donated by the American Red Cross in Seaford, NY.

Tapping the Holiday Spirit!

By Arindam Jurakhan

As the effects of Sandy start to subside, the HHH District is beginning to get back on its feet. Residents have gotten power back, trees have been picked up, and insurance companies have been contacted. However, many places all around Long Island and New York still need aid. In order to move forward from this disaster, we must help all of those still in need of recovery. Many people on the shores of Long Island, Staten Island, and New York City lost entire homes and lives to

Sandy. Relief efforts are being carried out in order to help the affected citizens, and there are many ways you too can contribute. This should bring out the positive energy in our community, especially before the holiday season.

We need to contribute just like the citizens of the United States did when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Many were affected just like us, but according to the New York Times, Hurricane Katrina cost double the estimated repair costs, was more concentrated, and damaged four times more buildings than Hurricane Sandy. Yet with the help of their neighbors, New Orleans and every affected area regained its strength after 7 years. Al-

though still not 100% today, Katrina victims have recovered greatly and in order for us to do the same, we must not focus solely on the Dix Hills area. Our power is back on, but people still have to rebuild their entire lives due to this super storm.

We must not take for granted what has been given to us. We have to use the resources we have to help others move forward from this disaster. Many people still need help and you can provide it. Donating just five dollars or an hour of your time to any relief organization can go a long way in reducing the duration of the recovery process.



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