

SUFFOLK ADDS 934 AREA CODE STARTING TODAY

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In the works since December 2014, Suffolk County's second area code — 934 — is finally set to see the light of day tomorrow.

That means that anyone in Suffolk seeking new residential, business or wireless service, an additional line or possibly a move of their service, may be assigned a number with the new code. (Existing 631 phone numbers remain the same.)

Getting a 934 number, though, will not be a slam dunk.

Some carriers may still have a ready supply of 631 numbers, so the introduction of the new code could take time to build up steam, said John Manning, senior director of the North American Numbering Plan Administration, which oversees telephone resources, including area codes.

Preparing for this two-code approach, callers in Suffolk have already made the leap from the familiar seven-digit dialing without an area code, to 10-digit dialing for intracounty calls.

Despite a nearly yearlong grace period for optional 10-digit dialing, some callers were stymied on June 18, the first day the area code was required.

Some questioned why those with 631 numbers had to join in the 10-digit dialing party. Couldn't they stick with seven, and have the new 934 people take on the chore of having to tack on the code — be it 631 or 934?

Not a go, said Manning.

That would mean some service carriers — those with a supply of 631 numbers — could have an unfair advantage over new carriers that would have access only to numbers with the new code. Also, such a dual-dialing approach “creates significant complexity” in how the network would have to process calls, he said.

This is all coming about because 631, which was created for Suffolk in 1999 after it split from the Island's 516 area code, “is running out of assignable telephone numbers, and implementation of a new area code is necessary,” said a June 16, 2014, report from the state Department of Public Service.

New shift in Zika case

Female-to-male transmission reported in NYC

BY DELTHIA RICKS
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The first documented case of female-to-male sexual transmission of the Zika virus was reported simultaneously yesterday by health officials in New York City and scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new details add another dimension to the expanding catalog of data on the Zika virus, an infectious agent that was barely known in this country a year ago. The woman's case was announced during a news conference in Manhattan by officials with the New York

City health department and in the current issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, a CDC publication.

Federal medical investigators collaborated with city health officials to confirm the mode of viral transmission, and their resulting scientific report reads almost like a daily diary covering the woman's own Zika viral illness; its effect on her menstrual cycle; her sexual encounter, and the eventual Zika infection of her male partner.

The report emphasized that the case “represents the first reported occurrence of female-to-male transmission” and suggests that sex may be a more frequent mode of spread than previously thought.

“The timing and sequence of events support female-to-male Zika virus transmission,” the infectious disease experts wrote in their collaborative report.

The woman was identified only as nonpregnant, in her 20s and having engaged in unprotected sex shortly after returning from a region of the world where the virus is flourishing.

Basing their report on interviews with the woman, public health investigators were able to learn she was experiencing classic Zika symptoms immediately after returning home: fever, fatigue, rash, joint pains and numbness in her hands and feet. She also told public health investigators that her menstrual cycle had just begun and was heavier than usual. Three days after returning to New York, she sought medical care and tests revealed the presence of viral genetic material in her blood and urine. The woman's sex partner developed a Zika viral infection about a week later.

Sen. Chuck Schumer said New York's first female-to-

male case of Zika virus transmission added another reason why federal funding was needed. Even though Congress recessed earlier this week, Schumer said lawmakers should return to Washington because the new report suggested broader modes of transmission. He wants Congress to pass a \$1.9 billion Zika emergency funding measure to combat the virus.

Dr. Sunil Sood, an expert in infectious diseases at Northwell Health's Southside Hospital in Bay Shore, said there was no question that Zika could be viewed as a sexually transmitted disease. “We already knew it was transmitted male-to-female, so it was biologically plausible that it could be transmitted female-to-male,” said Sood, a professor of pediatrics and family medicine at Hofstra School of Medicine.

Home prices soar in Nassau, edge up in Suffolk

BY MAURA MCDERMOTT
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Long Island home sales spiked last month, driving prices up sharply in Nassau County but hardly at all in Suffolk.

The number of closed transactions increased year-over-year by nearly 18 percent in Nassau and 23 percent in Suffolk, the Multiple Listing Service of Long Island reported yesterday.

In Nassau, the median price hit \$480,000 in June, an annual increase of 9.1 percent. In Suffolk, the median price edged up year-over-year by just 1 percent, to \$343,500, the listing service reported.

Nassau got the bigger bump in prices because buyers with high-paying jobs in New York City want a short commute, and they are willing to pay for it, real estate brokers said.

“Nassau is the more prime area, closer to the city, that's always the driving force,” said Joe Moshé, owner of Plainview-based Charles Rutenberg Realty.

But Suffolk attracts plenty of cost-conscious buyers, even if they are not pushing up prices by much, Moshé said. “The competition isn't as great in Suffolk as it is in Nassau, but there's an influx of buyers out there because the homes are more affordable.”

The Island also is feeling the effects of the city's real estate boom, as buyers venture into the suburbs in search of more space for a lower price, Moshé said.

Nassau is even attracting some city residents seeking vacation homes in Gold Coast communities such as

Matinecock and Locust Valley, because traffic tie-ups cause such long delays in getting to the Hamptons, said Kimberly Bancroft, a real estate agent with Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Real Estate in Locust Valley.

The near-record low cost of

borrowing also gives a boost to the housing market. The average interest rate for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage was 3.42 percent, mortgage giant Freddie Mac reported this week.

“I've had some people say they wanted to take advantage of the low rates,” Bancroft said.

Buyers had fewer properties to choose from in June, with only 15,259 homes listed for sale Islandwide, 17 percent fewer than in the same period in 2015.

At the current pace of sales, it would take just over five months to sell all the homes listed in Nassau and six months in Suffolk. A balanced housing market has a six- to eight-month supply of homes, brokers say.



The number of home sales rose in Nassau and Suffolk in June. Above, a sold house on Montana Street in Hicksville yesterday.

Home prices, sales on rise Islandwide

	June 2015 median price	June 2016 median price	Percent change	June 2015 number of sales	June 2016 number of sales	Percent change
Nassau	\$440,000	\$480,000	9.1%	1,047	1,231	17.6%
Suffolk	\$340,000	\$343,500	1.0%	1,219	1,498	22.9%

SOURCE: Multiple Listing Service of Long Island

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