

**LI People
ON THE MOVE**



NASSAU BOCES

Brad Slepian of Forest Hills, Queens has been hired as an assistant principal of the adult education program at **Nassau BOCES Joseph M. Barry Career & Technical Education Center** in Westbury. He was the administrator at The Caedmon School in Manhattan.



CLARK UNIVERSITY

Pennie S. Turgeon of Glen Cove has been hired as vice president for information technology and CIO at **New York Institute of Technology** in Old Westbury. She was vice president for information technology and CIO at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.



FHL PHOTOGRAPHY

Cara McNamara of Ronkonkoma, firm administrator at Harras Bloom & Archer in Melville, has been elected immediate past president of the board of directors of the **Association of Legal Administrators, Long Island chapter**.

Send submissions and color headshots to **peopleonthemove@newsday.com**

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LI DEVELOPER PREFERS FLORIDA FOR EXPANSION

BY **DAYSI CALAVIA-ROBERTSON**
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Engel Burman Group, the Jericho-based developer of the upscale Bristol Assisted Living chain, will focus future expansion efforts in South Florida rather than the tristate area, an executive said Wednesday, citing National Grid's moratorium on new gas hookups as a determining factor.

"It's always been difficult to get things done in this region but the final straw is this natural gas situation," president Jan Burman said, adding that other factors, including new rent control regulations, high property taxes, saturation in the assisted-living business on the Island and the prospect of an expanded state prevailing-wage law, were also behind the decision.

"A year ago, I might have said it was the prevailing-wage law that was pushing us out but now, it's this. If we can't get gas, we can't build," he said. "It's with a heavy heart but we are being forced to look elsewhere to a place that's more friendly to what we're doing."

National Grid enacted a controversial moratorium on new gas hookups earlier this year, affecting business and residential development projects. The Public Service Commission last week ordered the utility to reconnect more than 1,100 customers who were denied service as



GOOGLE MAPS

Engel Burman Group, developer of 16 assisted-living facilities on Long Island, including Bristol Assisted Living in Garden City, above, sees riper expansion possibilities in South Florida.

part of the moratorium. Engel Burman has developed or is in the process of developing 21 assisted-living communities in New York and New Jersey, 16 of them on Long Island. It has obtained tax breaks for several projects here from the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency, the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency and the Town of Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency.

It has five more projects in the works in the tristate area.

Democratic state lawmakers have pledged to renew a push

to extend the prevailing wage requirement when the legislature resumes in January. The requirement to pay union wages and benefits, which now applies only to government projects, would be extended to include construction projects that receive tax breaks or grants from IDAs and state agencies.

In South Florida, Engel Burman said it is in contract to buy properties in Boca Raton and South Miami, and is negotiating to buy a site in Aventura.

The firm expects to invest a combined \$300 million on the

projects and have all three in the ground by next year, Burman said.

"Growing our brand in South Florida is very attractive for us because there are many snowbirds there from the New York City area. There's a name recognition there we wouldn't have in other places," he said.

"It's a right-to-work state and it's less expensive to build there. . . . Will we grow to having 21 facilities there? I don't know, maybe. All I know is for now we're going one by one."

Dip in Sept. retail sales hints at shaky economy

The Associated Press

Retail sales dropped in September by the largest amount in seven months, possibly signaling that rising trade tensions and turbulent markets are having an impact on consumer spending.

Retail sales fell 0.3% last month following a 0.6% gain in August, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. It was the first decline since a 0.5% drop in February.

Consumer spending was strong in the spring, and economists had been counting on continued strength to protect the U.S. economy as it is buffeted by the fallout from President Donald Trump's trade war with China.



AP / STEVEN SENNE

Appliance purchases and more contributed to an overall decline in retail sales.

The spending decline in October, which was unexpected, was influenced by special factors including a big 0.7% decline in sales at

gasoline stations, a decline that likely reflected falling gas prices during the month.

The overall economy grew at a 2% annual rate in the April-June quarter with much of that strength coming from a 4.6% surge in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of economic activity.

That spending pace had been expected to slow in the July-September quarter but still remain strong enough to support economic growth near the 2% rate seen in the spring.

But some economists are worried that a slowing global economy and the adverse impact of the U.S.-China trade war could slow overall growth so much that the country could see an increas-

ing risk of a recession ending the current record-long U.S. expansion, which began in 2009.

"It looks like the trade war has claimed yet another victim, in addition to diminished business confidence and reduced investment spending ... consumers are starting to chicken out," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG in Manhattan.

In addition to the drop in gasoline sales, sales of autos fell 0.9% in September after a solid 1.9% increase in August.

Sales at department stores were down 1.4% while sales at general merchandise stores, which include chain retailers such as Walmart and Target, fell 0.3%.