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# Hempstead Town orders closure of food pantry operating out of home



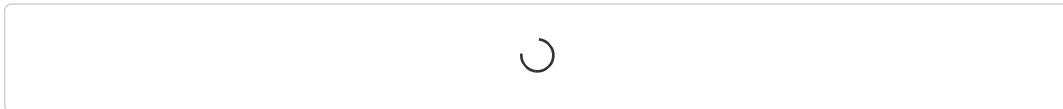
Hempstead Town Hall. Credit: Howard Schnapp

By Joseph Ostapiuk

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The Town of Hempstead ordered the closure of a food pantry that was illegally operating out of a home on a residential street in West Hempstead, a spokesman said.

Ramonia Ramkissoon, director of the nonprofit Friends for the Poor Foundation, had operated the pantry out of her home on Hopatcong Avenue since 2021. The pantry is open on Saturdays and serves about 200 people each week, she told Newsday in a phone interview.

Town spokesman Brian Devine said code enforcement inspectors, along with the Nassau County Police Department, “shut down an illegal commercial use of a residential property this past Saturday afternoon.”

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Hempstead issued three violations: illegal use of property, construction without a permit and operating without a public assembly license. The town had issued a warning to the property's owners in March, Devine said.

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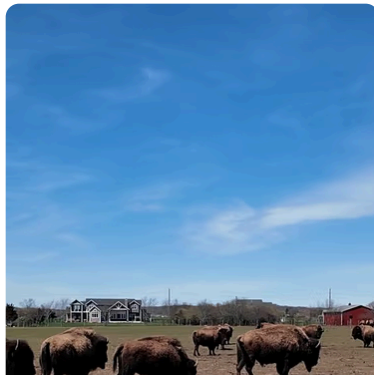
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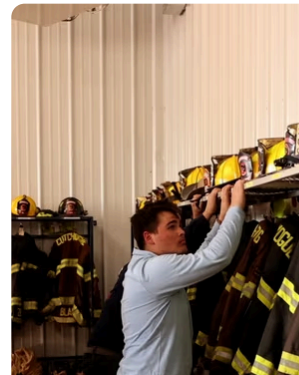
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