

LI People ON THE MOVE

BOARDS/ ASSOCIATIONS

Mercy Haven announces two new appointments.



Jim DiGiovanni has been appointed to the advisory council. The Bay Shore resident is senior vice president at Arthur J. Gallagher/The Treiber

Group in Garden City.



Gail Ann Donheiser has been appointed to the board of directors. The Bay Shore resident is the vice president for risk manage-

ment and patient safety at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in West Islip.

Mercy Haven is an Islip Terrace-based nonprofit that provides housing, advocacy and other services to those who are homeless, those living with mental illness or in poverty on Long Island.

REAL ESTATE

Douglas Elliman Real Estate welcomes two new associate brokers to their team in the Roslyn office.

Jane Claire Crowley, of Oyster Bay Cove, was previously owner and broker of Claire Brook Properties in Locust Valley.

Nina Naqvi, of Roslyn, was previously a licensed associate real estate broker at Century 21 American Homes in Westbury.

— GINA TABARUS

Send submissions and color headshots to peopleonthemove@newsday.com

For more people on the move newsday.com/onthemove

Car sales still on the move in Dec.

BY TOM INCANTALUPO
tom.incantalupo@newsday.com

Long Islanders registered almost 40 percent more cars in December than a year earlier, new data show, as residents continued a post-Sandy buying bubble to replace storm-damaged cars.

The momentum in car purchases, however, is decelerating. November's year over year increase was 71 percent. Sandy struck Oct. 29.

"We definitely saw a decline in December and even more of a decline in January compared to how November was," said Michael Villani, owner of Garden City Jeep, Chrysler, Dodge, Ram. "December was still good compared to 2011. And January was just a little better than in 2012, but I didn't see a huge demand from people coming through the door and saying they lost a car in Sandy."

Long Islanders registered 20,927 new cars and trucks in December.

The biggest year-to-year gain numerically in December was by Honda, the island's best-selling brand. New registrations of Hondas rose by 893 vehicles or 48.5 percent, to 2,733 vehicles, according to the new figures from the Michigan-based auto data provider R.L. Polk & Co.

At Babylon Honda, in West Babylon, dealership owner Gary Schimmerling said that while his December business was up from a year earlier, it was less than half the 300 vehi-



Toyota registrations on Long Island were up about 60 percent in December compared to a year earlier. But the pace slowed from November's sales. Above, the sales floor at Toyota of Huntington.

cles he sold in November. "I think most people had already gotten their insurance settlements and their new cars so, yes, we saw a decline in business."

Toyota registrations increased by 795 vehicles or almost 60 percent in December from a year earlier. Other big gainers were Hyundai, Volk-

swagen, Ford and Chevrolet.

The gains in November had followed a weak October, when Long Islanders registered only 12,957 new vehicles, 16 percent fewer than a year earlier. Local dealers said showroom traffic dropped off as the storm approached. Some dealerships were damaged, while many would-be

car shoppers were occupied with storm-damaged homes and the lack of electric power.

For all of last year, new vehicle registrations on Long Island increased by 9.9 percent, to 202,588, Polk said. Nationally, sales rose by 13 percent last year, to 14.5 million new vehicles, according to the trade paper Automotive News.

Apple chief: Shareholder lawsuit 'silly'

The Associated Press

Apple CEO Tim Cook is calling a shareholder lawsuit against the company a "silly sideshow," even as he said he is open to looking at the shareholder's proposals for sharing more cash with investors.

Investor David Einhorn sued Apple Inc. last week, saying a proposal slated for a vote at the company's annual meeting in two weeks would make it more difficult to enact his plan to reward shareholders by distributing a new class of shares.

Cook said Apple's proposal

puts more power in the hands of shareholders, making it difficult to understand why a shareholder would fight it. Calling the fight a waste of time, Cook said Apple won't waste money on a mailing to shareholders to persuade them to vote for the proposal.

"My preference is that everyone on both sides of this issue would take the money they're spending on this and donate it to a worthy cause," Cook said in a morning speech at a Goldman Sachs investor conference in San Francisco.

Repeating previous statements, Cook also said the com-

pany is "seriously" looking at ways to hand out more cash to shareholders.

Investors appeared to be listening for something more substantive out of Cook on the cash issue. Apple's stock fell \$12.03, or 2.51 percent, to close at \$467.90.

The stock market has hammered Apple's stock since the September launch of the iPhone 5. The company's growth, which has been rapid for nearly a decade, is slowing drastically in the absence of a new groundbreaking product. Wall Street is clamoring for Apple to share more of its

cash, which amounted to \$137 billion at the end of last year and is still growing fast because of the company's massive profits.

Companies normally don't sit on that much cash, as it's not very productive. They prefer to invest it in their business or give it to shareholders. Einhorn said Apple's cash hoard is a symptom of a defensive, "Depression-era mentality."

Cook rebutted that assertion, saying the company has committed to handing out \$45 billion to shareholders over three years, through dividends and share buybacks.