

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

July 9, 2013

Hit and Run driver to be sentenced for fatal collision with birthday celebrant

A Middle Island pool mechanic will be sentenced tomorrow (Wednesday July 10) for the hit and run crash in downtown Riverhead last December that killed a man as he was crossing East Main Street on his way to celebrate his 50th birthday party.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said he will recommend the maximum two and one-third to 7 years term of imprisonment for the defendant Joseph Plummer, 49.

"As I have said repeatedly this year, the penalty for a hit and run must be increased in the State of New York to at least a maximum of 15 years in state prison," DA Spota said. Today, to leave the scene of the accident actually results in a lesser punishment than if a driver involved was found at the scene by police to be driving under the influence."

"The Riverhead PD located the vehicle the defendant was driving, a 1999 Saturn Sedan, hidden under a swimming pool tarp at Plummer's home. Police arrested him January 2 of this year, five days after the crime," the District Attorney said.

During the victim's birthday party, he left the restaurant to move his parked car closer to the curb. "After he moved his vehicle, he began walking across the street to return to his family and friends in the restaurant when he was struck down by Plummer," said DA Spota.

'Plummer explained to police that he didn't know what he hit. He drove to his home in Middle Island, a thirteen mile trip, with a shattered windshield."

After the initial collision, the victim was struck by second car, a 2006 Honda, where police found his body caught in the undercarriage of the vehicle.

On June 3, Plummer pleaded guilty to the charge in the indictment, Leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident involving a death.

Judge Mark Cohen will call the court calendar at 9:30.

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