

LoGrande Wins Reprieve

The Suffolk County Legislature failed to call for a special election to fill by vote the position of county executive as allowed in the charter.

Cohalan's chief deputy, Michael LoGrande, who was recently appointed, will continue on as the acting county executive until the November election. This gives LoGrande a reprieve and time to show the stuff he is made of.

LoGrande is carrying some very heavy baggage. He is the candidate of Islip Town Republican Leader Tony Pace. Pace was also Cohalan's Godfather and extracted his price from Cohalan for his support. The county payroll is filled with positions of Pace loyalists. Pace is, without a doubt, the best town leader from a political standpoint in the County of Suffolk. He is shrewd, careful and extracts his piece of flesh for all favors he does.

LoGrande needs Pace behind him to raise the funds and put together the organization to run the campaign that will be called for in the upcoming September primary and the general election in November.

LoGrande must prove he is the kind of administrator the people of Suffolk County want to keep. This means he will have to do a thorough house cleaning, a clearing out of people who received patronage appointments and who have done little to earn their keep. He must start with his own office. Cohalan had a habit of appointing election rejects, and others who had done him favors, as assistant county executives. Many of these appointees have no qualifications or ability to carry the title and truly earn the salary. They are living, walking, talking political pork barrels who serve no useful purpose for the taxpayers. These were political payoffs from Peter Cohalan and now that Cohalan is gone, LoGrande must get rid of them.

There have been hundreds of other appointments made throughout the county of equal dubious value. Each appointment made should be examined. Those who serve a purpose

should be kept, those that are serving only themselves should be terminated.

LoGrande also should look into the multiple of contracts for the attorneys and professionals engaged. Here is where many other patronage payoffs have taken place. Of course, if LoGrande identifies these patronage payoffs he will be in a dilemma, because now he will have to choose between serving the public or serving the political leaders.

LoGrande probably would have been better off having run in a special election where he could have rid himself of the image of being the candidate of the boys in the back room. If victorious he would have been in a position to unload some very uncomfortable and uncontrollable political liabilities. LoGrande, over the next eight months, will be under an intensive magnifying glass. Every wrong step taken or every step not taken will be subject to absolute scrutiny. Not only will LoGrande have to clean up the county, but he will have to deal with the funny farm, the grand circus of all times, the county legislature.

The legislature is so disorganized that it is a circle of perpetual motion, always doing something but never reaching an end. Each legislator believes he is a co-equal with the county executive, but knows more than any county executive could. Although each legislator believes this of himself, he doesn't trust the legislator who sits on either side of him nor does he value their opinion. The county legislature is a very bad situation even in good times. Out of all of this we see eight months of a political campaign, with almost no hope for statesmanship or good government.

Out of chaos often times comes opportunity which good men seize. LoGrande, if he is to be the county executive of the future, must prove he is one of the good men who not only knows but can seize an opportunity even if it looks like a problem. He faces an extremely difficult task. We wish him well.

And why not?

was not able to reach an agreement with Anderson. He reappointed the three Republican members when their terms expired. All but one of these members has left the commission along with three Democrats, whose terms have either expired or they have resigned.

Cuomo, taking the bull by the horns, announced the appointment of the six members he is allowed under law to appoint including the new chairman Peter Bradford. Two members of the board are Republicans. Cuomo did not ask for Anderson's blessings prior to the announcement and now Anderson is reported to be furious. Anderson claims that Cuomo broke protocol, threatens to hold up confirmation of these appointments until the governor rectifies this breach.

Anderson, we understand, is particularly miffed about the appointment of Republican Frank Jones, a deputy county executive of Suffolk County and the man charged by the county executive with solving the Shoreham situation. Jones, in his role as deputy county executive, was an adamant opposer to Shoreham. Just the sound of his voice sent chills down the spines of LILCO management. Of the appointments made by

Cuomo, Jones is the only Long Island representative and we suspect that because he is from Long Island, Anderson is attempting to block him from being a Public Service Commissioner. Anderson probably wants a pro-utility stooge.

With the new board as constructed, utilities will not have an easy street as they have had in the past. The board is expected to be much more pro-consumer and pro-safety oriented, with less regard for the financial interests of Wall Street. Anderson's refusal to confirm these appointments is a shot in the gut to consumers, and he must be forced to act on the confirmation now.

Our Long Island delegation must act as a delegation. They must secure cooperation from upstate senators or put together a coalition with City Democrats to block any meaningful legislation in the senate, particularly legislation that Anderson wants, until these confirmations are completed.

Our Long Island delegation of the state senate cannot allow Warren Anderson to hold Long Island hostage any longer. In plain English, we can't afford it.

And why not?

Boom to Gloom

Jim LaRocca, president of the Long Island Association, addressed the members recently which voiced serious concerns about Long Island's future.

The central theme dealt with the high cost of doing business here on Long Island, the availability of fresh water and the need for additional sources of electricity to meet the demands that might be forthcoming.

We agree with some of LaRocca's assessments as they are a reaffirmation of what we have been saying for some time here at Suffolk Life.

During what appeared to be good times, the concept of what the people

could afford was thrown to the wind. Local town and county taxes have skyrocketed as they had to because of the huge increases the schools and the other governmental entities gave to their employees. Back when inflation was running double digit, increases to municipal employees that reflected these costs could be justified. But now that inflation has fallen to 1% nationwide and 2 1/2% in this area, increases of 10% and 20% for governmental workers is unconscionable.

The private sector, reacting to this inflation, has cut back severely on

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Held Hostage Too Long

Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson has held Long Island hostage far too long. Through his veto power and his demand that protocol be followed, he has controlled every appointment to the Public Service Commission and has skillfully held up energy reform in New York State.

Anderson, the Republican leader, has benefited enormously as have the state Republican coffers from donations from lobbyists representing the major utilities in the State of New York and their related vendors.

The Public Service Commission

has auspiciously acted as the protector of the utilities by passing rate increase after rate increase requested by the utilities, while performing almost no regulatory services which is their purpose. Utilities have been able to sock ratepayers for almost any and every cost they deemed prudent. The regulatory agency is supposed to audit and require proof that these charges are prudent but, for the most part, have failed miserably.

Although Governor Cuomo could have made a number of appointments to the Public Service Commission over the past four years, he

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.
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Boom to Gloom...

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the size and quantity of the raises that they are giving their employees. They have to or they no longer are competitive and people lose their jobs.

Unfortunately, the government does not react like the private sector, nor does it act anywhere near as swiftly. The elected officials who grant these wages have labored under the misapprehension that the taxpayer can always pay more. The result is businesses can't afford and don't and many of their workers are forced to seek relocation in the areas where it is more economical to do business.

All branches of government, starting with our school boards right through to the State Legislature, must assess the damage that is being done by punitive taxation and find ways as American industries have had to devise to cut back on their labor costs, or more businesses will be driven from the state and particularly Long Island.

LaRocca also addressed the high cost of energy produced by LILCO. It's about time. We wondered when he was going to see the light. LILCO's exorbitant electrical costs have driven many businesses who are high users of this product off the Island, many are not the big businesses but employers of under 100 people. Their departure does not

make headlines when they leave.

We presume it was Grumman's announcement that it was laying off 1,500 people on Long Island that finally caught LaRocca's attention. Grumman said when announcing its layoffs that the high cost of doing business here on the Island is a major factor. The firm has been relocating some of the manufacturing facilities in more competitive environments.

It isn't only the big guys that are affected, we all are as consumers. As one ice cream dealer told the Shoreham Commission, it currently cost him 18 cents for electricity to make and sell one small ice cream cone. If the rates were pushed up as LILCO demanded, he could not break even selling the ice cream cone for a dollar.

The state's D.E.C. and the County Health Department have contributed substantially to the cost of living on Long Island. They require prohibitive, expensive measures to protect the environment that are neither the best thought out nor the most economical means of achieving the same result. Each of these areas, and many others, must be addressed forcefully or we will end up living in a fool's paradise, for only fools will continue to pay the cost of surviving on Long Island. It's time for action.

And why not?

What's The Rush?

The Riverhead Town Board is currently studying a unique program designed to foster the preservation of farmland through a process of transferring development rights from targeted land to another portion of the town. The proposal is designed to offer a larger profit for developers by allowing them increased density for their projects, encouraging the developers to buy the development rights from the farmers, who would have cash in hand but continue ownership in the land they farm. In this fashion, the town would be able to preserve farmland without the expenditure of town funds.

The draft proposal under study in Riverhead is rather ambitious. It seeks to designate farmland in the center portion of the town for preservation, with the development rights (the yield of housing units that property would have if developed) earmarked for the north side of Sound Avenue to the bluffs along the Sound. That would result in increased density along that north corridor and, according to the draft proposal, a potential for traffic problems in the future.

The proposal as written would have a dramatic impact on the future growth of the Town of Riverhead. It

could change, unless carefully controlled, the rural nature of the northern portion of the town. The entire proposal, and its impact as currently proposed, should be carefully studied by everyone who calls Riverhead home. There are many questions that need to be answered before the town rushes into implementing such an ambitious plan.

Councilman Robert Pike, who has become a staunch advocate of the proposal, told us he hopes the town board will vote on the TDR plan in March. We think that would be rushing matters a great deal. If the proposal has merit, it should be able to withstand careful scrutiny. There is no need for such a rush. There should be a number of informational meetings scheduled throughout the town so that the public may be fully informed about all aspects of the plan. Then, a public hearing before the town acts would permit an informed public to have its say. The public might want to know, for example, why a percentage of development rights was not earmarked to resolve a current crisis in the availability of affordable housing. The present proposal does nothing for that need. But it should.

A financial impact statement should be available indicating the

potential tax yield of increased density in the northern area, as compared to the cost of roadway improvements that would be necessary in the future and the increased cost for services to an increased population.

The proposed TDR plan could well be an answer to the threat of increased growth. But then again it might not. It may be that a scaled down TDR action, with pilot projects

utilizing the same principles, would pinpoint some of the shortcomings at a more manageable rate.

Hopefully, town officials will not be steamrolled into acting in haste. Hopefully, they will take the time to search for all the pros and cons before passing such an ambitious plan.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"A drivers license is a privilege"

Dear Editor:

When a driver's license is issued to someone who then proceeds to use his car as a weapon to terrorize and intimidate an elderly widow by driving over her lawn again and again, ruining it completely, something should be done.

To attack an elderly helpless person in such an unexpected and unprovoked manner, is disgusting, and shows how we are failing in character training in our schools and at home.

The State of New York and driver ed teachers in our schools should issue a stern warning with strict punishment enforced to would-be terrorists who think a car can be

used anyway they please.

A driver's license is a privilege, not a right. Those who abuse this privilege should have their licenses revoked.

Thank you!
Very truly yours,
Mrs. M.C. Calabro
Remsenburg

P.S. It's about time parents should be held responsible for the shenanigans of their offspring, instead of letting others suffer. It's also about time legislators got this menace to life and limb and peace of mind under control by getting tough with these idiots.

'A balance of news coverage'

Dear Sir:

It appears that you have neglected to report a segment of the news, involving a portion of your readers. I can readily understand and appreciate your desire to print news apropos to the season. To my dismay, however, I looked for and found no articles on the lighting of the Menorah at Argyle Park in Babylon, for the Jewish celebration of Hannukah. Yes, I did see one insignificant item in one of your earlier editions. But, sir, when your entire front page is devoted to "Merry Christmas," and no space is set aside for other celebrations, I stand convinced that your reporting of the news is biased, one-sided, only one point of view.

If you are truly a paper for all people, let us see articles that will reflect this attitude. Surely, the editor is "A Man for all Seasons"--and "all people." Thank you.

Yours truly,
Renee Strauss
West Islip

Editor's note: We believe in God! We respect

every person's right to practice their own religion as they see fit. From time to time, at or just before, religious holidays of major religions we publish feature stories and photos about those holidays and their meaning to those of that belief. It is our hope that through this exposure all will come to understand the beliefs of others and the significance of their holidays. During the past year we have had articles on Easter, Christmas, Hannukah, and other holidays of the Jewish faith. We will continue to balance our coverage in this fashion and hope that all of all religious beliefs will take the time to read not only about their own holidays, but those of others. In the matter of coverage of the lighting of the Menorah at Argyle Park in Babylon, we do not yet cover the happenings in the Babylon area, and therefore restrict our coverage to those areas we do cover. We did, however, cover the lighting of a Menorah in Hauppauge which you may have missed.

"A most cruel corruption"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You are to be commended for your constant surveillance of pending legislation, and the public officials and agencies involved. Without your timely information, the general public would remain ignorant of many issues of vital concern to all. Your articles are unbiased and to the point. They, hopefully, serve to keep those elected responsive to the public's wishes.

I especially found most informative your brilliant and astute editorial on the Department of Environmental Conservation. An agency that the majority of taxpayers believe protects our environment and wildlife. In actuality this agency does the exact opposite, as shown by their mismanagement of fishing resources,

garbage disposal, water supplies, and more recently their stand on promoting the continued use of cruel and dangerous steel-jaw animal trapping against the mandate of the majority banning this barbaric practice.

Do they have complete control over all public lands which the taxpayers have tried to preserve through their approval of bonds? The DEC has conducted itself in a most cruel corruption of its intended purpose. Your editorial prompted my sending a letter to Governor Cuomo. Please keep up your good work of continuing your truly civic service of excellent reporting on all the issues.

Very truly yours,
M. Ann McCormack
Southampton

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Stars and Stripes Wave for America

Newport is but a few hours' boat ride from Long Island. Although it has been the home of the America's Cup Race for over 100 years, few of us ever attend or get excited about these races: that is until three years ago, when a group of Aussies from down under came halfway around the world and challenged us. In the best of four out of seven races, the Aussies with their high tech hull and rudders bested America and took the old gaudy America's Cup back to Australia. What a blow to our ego. Many felt America's yachting teams could never be unseated. One hundred years of victory lost in a few days' time.

Over the last three years, boating circles and publications have been filled with speculative articles that America could never regain the cup. When America, the New York Yacht Club's premier entry, went down to defeat, many hearts sank. This was supposed to be the best that America had, yet, she was eliminated early on in the pre-cup trials.

"Stars and Stripes," Dennis Conner's victory yacht, was considered to be just another entry without

hopes of victory. The San Diego Yacht Club had neither the prestige nor the financial backing of the New York Yacht Club. Conner and his crew played a magnificent game of psychological warfare, winning just enough to keep in contention and never giving away their ace. As the trials wound down, "Stars and Stripes" became the boat to be reckoned with. Even money could not have gotten you a bet that "Stars and Stripes" would win the cup and bring it back to America. But, four straight in all kinds of wind conditions, "Stars and Stripes" flew forever. The cup is coming home!

Conner and the San Diego Yacht Club won big and will bring the America's Cup home where she belongs. It wasn't the world series nor the super bowl, but a real international competition on foreign land and in foreign seas and America won.

To Dennis Conner and his crew, we raise our glasses high and toast, "How proud we are."

Thank you.
And why not?

Equity and Fairness

Before the first spade of dirt was turned over in the construction process of the Shoreham nuclear power plant, the Atomic Energy Commission, the forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Long Island Lighting Company, relinquished in public testimony all rights to protest the company's inability to obtain a license because of safety or evacuation factors once the plant was completed.

Back in the mid-60's, during LILCO's first attempt to site a nuclear power plant at Lloyd Harbor, the Atomic Energy Commission and LILCO were asked in public to consider the ramifications of attempting to evacuate an island in case of an emergency. That question was asked again during the hearings on a construction license for Shoreham in the early 1970's. The same question

about the possibility of a safe evacuation was raised for a third time when LILCO was pushing for approval to build a nuclear power plant at Jamesport. On all three occasions, the official A.E.C./NRC response was the same as LILCO's: The question of evacuation is a question we do not have to address at this point. We will take evacuation into consideration during hearings for an operating license (after the plant is built). Pro-safety witnesses pointed out the folly of building a plant that could not be approved because evacuation would be impossible on an island such as Long Island. Logic and reason did not prevail then, and it certainly does not prevail now.

Representative Edward Markey, chairman of the congressional sub-committee that oversees the NRC, revealed last week that two

high ranking officials of the NRC have circulated a memorandum to the NRC commissioners complaining that local officials have virtual veto power over completed plants in the final licensing hearings when they refuse to participate in evacuation drills and plans. The two NRC officials declared this position presents "significant policy questions of equity and fairness." They bemoaned the fact that the utility "has substantially completed construction and committed substantial resources to a nuclear power plant." They go on to whine that municipalities, local, county and state governments who are responsible for the safety of their citizens and who are living up to their constitutional responsibilities, are standing in the way of the NRC's ability to circumvent the law to put such plants on line. And so, these two top NRC officials are urging the NRC commissioners to change the rules, eliminating the requirement that local governments participate in the evacuation process.

Officials of the NRC do not know the meaning of fairness and equity. They were forewarned on three separate occasions that Long Island is a 100-mile strip of land no more than 14 miles wide, containing almost two and a half million people with only three main roads leading off it.

They were warned in the 60's, the 70's, and again in the 80's that a safe evacuation would be an impossibility in the event of an accident. They knew about this fact long before construction on the plant started. But they didn't listen. In their greed and rush for profit, LILCO, and their nuclear allies in the regulatory agency, were willing to forsake the safety of almost two-and-a-half million people. They were arrogantly confident then, and are arrogantly proceeding now to push a nuclear plant down our throats, safe or unsafe. These so-called nuclear experts had enough information then, and certainly have more now, that nuclear disaster loomed. But they gambled they could license the plant before that happened.

Three Mile Island awakened America to the fact that the experts were playing with the truth when they extolled the "absolutely safe" lies about nuclear power. The average guy on the street, as well as responsible members of the scientific community, became aware that nuclear power was not as safe as its proponents had it cracked up to be. Congress reacted as congress should, setting up guidelines which the NRC was ordered to adhere to for the protection of the public.

Chernobyl proved once and for all the devastation of a serious nuclear accident. Not only did people die soon after the accident, thousands upon thousands more have been contaminated and their lives will suffer the horrible consequences years from now. Lands almost 2,000 miles away are still contaminated by radioactive fallout, and food that is grown on this soil has become a serious health threat. It will take decades before normal life can resume in these areas.

For the NRC and LILCO to cry out in anguish now that they have completed construction of Shoreham, gambled their money, so therefore safety and health should be disregarded, is ludicrous. Since when in America is money more important than human safety? If we believe this, then let's do away with all laws that are designed to protect our environment, welfare and safety. In fact, let's do away with government because government at this point has no purpose.

LILCO and the NRC made a tragic, foolhardy mistake when they agreed to build a nuclear power plant before the safety issues were considered. They gambled that they could steam roll the plant through any opposition, and they lost. In the words of Washington lawyer Herbert Brown, Suffolk County's attorney in the fight against Shoreham, "They are at wit's end and they are now acting on the border of buffoonery."

LILCO must give up its foolhardy attempt to open this plant. The NRC, because of its participation in this conspiracy, should be forced to accept responsibility for encouraging this nightmare and return to the taxpayers and the stockholders every cent they have invested in this white elephant. Under no circumstances should the NRC be permitted to circumvent safety rules to allow this plant to go on line.

We urge you to write to your congressmen and your senators. Forget about the president, for you will only get back a form letter from one of his underlings telling you how wonderful nuclear energy is and that Shoreham should be opened, even though it poses a health threat.

Polls indicate that more than 70 per cent of the people of Long Island oppose the opening of Shoreham. The percentage of those who have taken the time to speak out against this threat is much, much smaller, however. The time for silence is long gone. If you want to protect your future, and the future of your loved ones, you MUST speak out now.

And why not?

Waste Does Not Make Clean Water

Who could be against clean water? According to recent news analysis, President Ronald Reagan is. You see, he vetoed the multi-billion dollar so called clean water bill that has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. In

the house and senate's alleged desire to clean up the environment they overrode his veto overwhelmingly and now we, the taxpayers of the United States, will spend "X" billion

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Waste Does Not...

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dollars so that we may have palatable water in the future.

Why would Ronald Reagan be opposed to clean water, many of us are probably asking. He isn't. He is just against the slime and the pork barrel that congress included in the appropriations that they stuck in under the motherhood title of clean water. All is not what it seems to be at first glance.

Congress knew what it was doing, and how to get the multiple of appropriations they wanted past the president. They added them to the bill. It was a take it or leave it situation for the president. He gambled his reputation on vetoing the bill. He hoped that you would be aware of how irresponsible congress is.

Close to home, the clean water bill will provide for federal funding to the tune of \$50 million to replenish the sand in front of the multi-millionaires' homes on Dune Road. We, the taxpayers, are now obligated to pump sand in front of these mansions for the next fifty years, sand that will be washed away every time we have a major north-east storm. This is the kind of item which was included in the bill Reagan is being criticized for vetoing. It's the kind of item that Hochbrueckner, Downey, Mrazek and Moynihan won't tell you about when they are out on the campaign trail, criticizing the old man in the White House for opposing clean water.

It is this kind of waste that congressmen from both parties regularly engage in that is causing the federal budget to run into huge deficits. It is the kind of expenditure that we are saddling our children with the responsibility of paying back. Can this ludicrous practice be stopped?

The answer is yes. Give the president a line by line veto power over appropriation bills. You can bet your sweet bippy that the congress would not dare to override a veto on pumping sand in front of millionaires' homes, but, cloaked under a clean water bill, congressmen come out as heroes, the president as a villain, and the taxpayers saddled with financing this obscene federal expenditure.

The president is regularly confronted with saying "yes" or "no" to bills that he knows contain enormous waste; waste, which if it had to be voted on its own merits, would never be introduced in congress. But waste tacked onto popular motherhood bills sails through congress and can't be stopped by the president.

This is our government, and the cost of running it is out of control. Only if our house and senate give the power to the president of a line by line veto will the waste be halted.

It makes no difference whether our presidents are Republican or Democrat, as chief executive and the men responsible for the budget, they must have control of what they are going to be held accountable for. Congressmen and senators are like children unsupervised in a candy store. Instead of eating themselves sick, they spend their country sick. They have no conscience or ability to control themselves. As long as we hold the president responsible for their actions, we must give the president the mechanism to stop congresses' uncontrollable urge to spend.

Write to your congressman and senator today, demanding that the president be given a line by line veto power over any spending measures. It's the only way to return fiscal sanity to Washington.

And why not?

Preserve The Working Class

The Riverhead Town Board is currently studying a proposal for saving the town's farmland and open space. The plan calls for a division of the town, with the area north of Sound Avenue to be an area of wealthy second homes and primary residences, filled with condos and multi-family housing.

One of the staunchest advocates of the proposal, indeed the author of many of its recommendations, Councilman Bobby Pike, views the sound-front property as a mecca for west enders who have the money and the affluence to be able to afford housing at a quarter of a million dollars and up.

The land south of Sound Avenue to Route 25 and 58 would be preserved as farmland by allowing the farmers to transfer the development of this land to the wealthy north shore area, increasing the density of the housing that can be built there. Thus, all of the homes that would have been built on the farmland will be shifted, by

permitting the sale of development rights and the increase of density, to the northern area.

The plan has some interesting concepts, but is devoid of facing the problems of today and the future. It does not address affordable housing, a crisis in today's housing market. It does not address the traffic problems increased density could bring to the Sound Avenue area. It seeks only to preserve open space and the transfer of lower assessed development potential to a higher assessed area, thereby offering the town a higher tax potential. But where are the people going to live who will be required to provide services to the wealthy new residents? There isn't much sense in owning a majestic house if you have to do all the work yourself. Generally, the desire for others to do the service work increases in proportion to a person's wealth. If there is no place for service personnel to live because they cannot afford it here, or there is no

room for them in the town's plans, they will not be here. We will have driven them out to locate elsewhere. Are we telling our youth they are less important to us then are the wealthy?

This plan, although disguised as something new, is in reality a quick attempt at implementing a new, but incomplete, master plan for the Town of Riverhead. Master plans normally take substantial time to develop as they require, as does all sound planning, input from the residents. Since a master plan will regulate future use of land, the environment, recreational and employment opportunities, it should be aired thoroughly. Every resident should be made aware of how this will affect them not only today, but in the future. The residents of the town should determine what they want, how they want their town to grow, not what someone tells them they should have.

Pike told Suffolk Life he was hopeful the proposal would be voted upon in March, but other town officials consider that an unrealistic view, and we quite agree. The other town officials say there will be a number of informational meetings, plus a public hearing before any action is taken. That is as it should be. Other officials voice the possibility that the initial thrust of the plan might be scaled down, with a pilot project put into place first. That would be a smart way to go. There is no need to rush headlong into implementing the entire plan without testing the waters to learn where the risks are.

Town residents should watch the town board's action very closely in this matter. The town they're planning to change is yours. Make sure the end result is the kind of a town you want to live in.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"Happiness in a job is more important"

To the Editor:

I was just reading an article by Robert O. Snelling, Sr. (Jan. 7) titled "Know When To Leave Your Job" and was amazed how it hit home. I am in the process of leaving a very good, very well paying job with a major automobile company in Detroit for exactly the reasons stated. In recent studies made by my company money is 'not' the prime interest in being happy where you work. The study showed job satisfaction and more time off is more important than a pay raise. Happiness in a job is much more important than a \$20 raise and goes a lot farther. I feel guilty leaving a good

job and taking a chance leaving Detroit and moving to Long Island to go into business for myself, but I am very excited about doing so also. I know it is very expensive to live here, but I love L.I. and feel confident I can make it. The next six months will not be easy with all the changes, but I know a lot of my co-workers in Detroit envy what I am doing. My advice to readers is don't get stuck on a dead-end street, for at the end of the street there might be no place to turn around.

Sincerely yours
David Pattino
Holtsville

"Concerned resident speaks out"

To Whom It May Concern:

What kind of a society are we living in? If our pets are not safe from human destruction, are our children or adults?

One nice sunny Saturday in December I looked out the window to find my cat who happens to mean the world to us lying out in the yard crying. When I went to pick him up I realized he was hurt. We rushed him to the hospital where we were told he would require major surgery because he had been shot. A CO² bullet which pierced his large intestine had to be removed surgically. The bullet almost went completely through his body. Due to fur and other body fragments he had a large

internal blood clot. Fortunately, after remaining on the critical list for four days the doctor was able to save him. Many pets would have had to be destroyed because no matter how much the animal means to their master many would not have been able to pay the large sum for the surgery and the after care. All because we have people in this society who are sick or heartless - whatever you want to call it.

I hope the person who shot our cat reads this and realizes this bullet could have hit a child or an adult - even though he does not realize how much hurt this caused us.

Concerned resident
Cutchogue

"Thanks to Flanders Ambulance Co."

Dear Mr. Willmott:

A Warm Thank You.
I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers of the Flanders Northampton Vol-

unteer Ambulance for the prompt response and courteous care and treatment of my family when we needed them for my son's accident.
Charlotte Lorenz

"Suffolk Life is 'On Target'"

Dear Mr. Grasso:

I'm delighted to see that Suffolk Life's name has been added to the "On Target" footnote. Agency directors who have seen the articles have called to express their appreciation. All of them perceive Suffolk Life as the prime mover in this community service series of articles. We have certainly agreed with them and have told them so.
A number of people here at Citibank who live

outside of Suffolk County have been introduced to the newspaper and all have agreed that yours is a worthwhile publication indeed. Please express our continued corporate thanks and my personal thanks to Mr. Willmott as well.
Sincerely,
Elaine S. Polin
Public Affairs

An Appointment Is Not A Special Election

When Michael LoGrande succeeded Peter Cohalan as county executive, the Suffolk County Democrats launched a suit demanding a special election be held. They got more than they bargained for.

Justice Morton I. Willen, a Family Court judge acting as a Supreme Court justice for the day, in a very confusing decision said the county charter, which calls for the chief deputy to succeed the county executive, which is what happened, is unconstitutional because it does not follow the state constitution in filling vacancies. He then said the governor should issue a special proclamation calling for a special election. And then, after meeting with the attorney for the Democrats, changed his original decision. He cited another section of state law which calls for the governor to appoint a successor. The altering of the initial decision created an uproar, and total confusion even, apparently, in the judge's own mind. He was quoted as saying: "...Did I box myself in? I don't know. I'll wait until morning to see what the hell I did."

What is not confusing is that Judge Willen, a Democrat, played politics with his decision, which will probably be overturned on appeal. In the meantime, however, Suffolk County is left with a very confusing state of affairs. Do we or do we not have a county executive? Will we or won't we have a special election sometime before the general election?

At this late date, does it make any sense for the taxpayers to spend a half to three-quarters of a million dollars to hold a special election? If a special election had been approved by the county legislature, it would have been held the end of February or the beginning of March. Now an election could not be held before late March or early April at the earliest.

This would make the election only a few months before the nominating convention and the start of the primary season. It just doesn't seem to make any sense now to hold a special election at this late date.

It makes less sense for the governor to appoint someone. The governor is not from Suffolk County. He doesn't know what is going on here, and personally, we would resent the governor saddling us with his hand-picked candidate, who would undoubtedly be the favorite son of Democratic County Leader Dominic Baranello. How in the world could Suffolk Democrats, who have raised such a hue and cry about "hand-picked" candidates following the Republican selection of LoGrande, now say it would be alright if the hand-picked candidate is one of their own? If the county Democrats think they can sneak in their own choice through such devious means, they must consider the electorate to be fools. Many good Democrats have bailed out of the Democratic party in the past couple of years because of Baranello and his policies. If Democrats don't have faith in their own leadership, why should the public?

The judge was asked to rule on the constitutionality of whether a special election should be held or not. Instead, following a meeting with fellow Democrats, he went beyond and called for an appointment by the governor. The judge's actions should be fully investigated.

Justice Willen should have ruled election or no election, and kept politics out of his decision. After all, isn't that what justice is all about? Unfortunately, however, in Suffolk it has become quite questionable what justice is about? Isn't it time we take politics out of the judicial arena?

And why not?

neighbors.

When I was growing up, being a congressman was a prestigious position. What it lacked in financial reward it gave back in power and prestige, and was one of the ultimate jobs in public service. So it was for our state senators and assemblymen. They received salaries that covered the expense of being away from home, but little more.

The supervisor of our town was paid a salary commensurate with a middle management position. Councilmen were paid a token, just about enough to run their campaigns and

cover the expenses of being a councilman. The quality of people we attracted to these offices was excellent. The positions were sought after by the best the community had to offer. Whether you were a congressman, a state legislator or a local official, you were a part-time public servant. You put in as much time as was required and you managed your time efficiently on public service, rather than politics.

This past week, congress sneaked through a \$12,000 increase in their salaries. This represents about a 20% increase in pay over and above the inflationary increases that congress has received yearly since the last salary controversy. Our congressmen did not even have the guts to vote on it. They used a mechanism that allowed the increases to come into effect by default. Knowing that they would have to act within 12 hours, congress adjourned until the raises could automatically take effect. Hardly an act of a public servant. But an all too typical act of greedy politicians.

A few weeks ago, a commission set up to oversee the development of low cost housing in Brookhaven Town voted to reward its members with \$9,000 salaries where none had existed before. The cost of this dastardly move will be approximately \$1,800 per home. This would mean that these low cost homes will cost the recipient an additional \$6,000 to \$10,000 over the life of a 30 year mortgage. The town board can terminate the terms of this commission, and should. Replace the commission with public servants from Brookhaven who want to serve their own kind and will do so for the sake of helping their neighbors.

Don't expect this to happen, for the councilmen are in the same trough. For their part-time jobs they receive a salary of \$33,373 per year. And they receive a fringe benefit package which brings the cost of these councilmen up to over \$60,000 a year. In addition to this, they receive a free car which almost all use not only for business, but for personal use. Of course, gasoline, oil, insurance and maintenance are included. They have even had the audacity to charge the taxpayers for an on-going

advertising campaign that keeps their names before the voters so that they are recognized when they go to the polls. Make no mistake, they are not full-time jobs, they are part-time. A small part put in on government business, a bit part put in on politics, and yet they still have time left over to hold down full time jobs if they so choose.

As an example, Sheriff Eugene Dooley was a councilman in Brookhaven Town. While councilman he also worked at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant as a steamfitter for a number of years and then was the assistant administrator at O.T.B., pulling down an additional full-time salary.

The other night we had an occasion to go to a Riverhead Town Board meeting. Looking over the councilmen, the thought came to us, "Why are we paying these men the kind of money we are?"

If we wanted to pay the kind of salaries we do, would we not at least seek out the best that was available, experienced enough to run a big business and expert in municipal government? Supervisor Joseph Janoski once commented that all that is required by town law is for one board meeting a year to be held. There is nothing in the law that requires a meeting every two weeks. He said, "Wouldn't it make sense to pay the councilmen and the supervisor a dollar per year or something that reflected the necessary expenses, take the wasted money and hire a professional, someone experienced in management and government and have him run the town on a day to day basis? Let the board meet as frequently as necessary to set policy and go about doing what they are best at earning a living at."

Isn't it a waste of time and taxpayers' money to have people sitting around town hall dreaming up ways of spending the taxpayers' money when they could be doing something productive and effective for the citizens they have pledged to serve? The trouble is, councilmen and all other elected officials have increased their salaries to make up for the time that they spend on government service and politicking. They increase their time so as to justify

Cont. to page 4

Whatever Happened To Public Service?

I grew up with the idea that government was run by people who devoted and donated their time to see that the government was run properly and as their neighbors and friends wanted it. Salaries of elected officials were minimal, designed to cover their expenses but offered little in personal remuneration.

The people who sought office did so out of a sense of community spirit. They cared about the communities, how they would develop, and were willing to donate some of their time to make sure that they were reflective of the wishes of their friends and

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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Whatever Happened. . .

Cont. from page 3

the payments that they receive. It's a vicious circle. It's the same syndrome on the town, county, state or federal level. The end result is that we have mediocre people running mediocre government because no one worth his salt wants to put up with the politics and can't afford to work full-time for the salaries they are being paid. Someone the equivalent in private industry of a

supervisor running a multi million dollar business could command over \$100,000, we pay our supervisors under \$50,000, the same goes for our legislature and congress. A position of elected office should be a position of public service; compensation should be incidental. We must re-align our priorities.

And why not?

Schools And Taxes

Recently a civic association of a Manorville adult park wrote to the governor demanding that they be exempt from all the school taxes. They reasoned they are senior citizens who have no children and therefore should be exempt.

They are partially right, partially wrong. Wrong in the respect that we all, young and old, have an obligation to provide an education for all our youth. We must teach them the basics, good strong fundamentals in reading, writing and math. This should be paid for by everyone, rich and poor, young and old. They are right, though, in asking for exemptions from the peripherals that school boards have a tendency to burden the taxpayers with.

The teachers' unions have been advocating for some time for the development of pre-k schooling. This is a nice way of saying that we should develop nursery schools and day care for all children. Mothers who are house-bound love the concept, as do the unions. The parents are freed from the burden of taking care of their children for some part of the day, and if offered by the government, they do not have to pay extra for it as they do in nursery schools or in private pre-k facilities. The unions love it because it means more jobs that come under their control. More jobs means more members and more dues.

On the other end of the educational spectrum, schools are offering college courses to their brighter and better students. If a student plans right, he or she can complete requirements for high school in a three year period, and use the senior year to complete most of his or her first year of college at the expense of the local taxpayers. Is this right? We don't think so.

Our schools should provide good solid, strong basics, and the electives should be offered on a pay as you go stipulation plan.

Taxpayers who are contributing already 60 to 70% of the real estate taxes, and a third of the state income taxes, to primary education should not be forced to pick up the additional cost for an ever expanding educational base.

The cost of schools here on Long Island is one of the most expensive items we pay taxes for. Our real estate taxes are the highest in the nation, and almost half of these go to fund the add-ons that the boards have been pressured into including.

Long Island is quickly driving itself into financial oblivion. It's one of the most costly places in the nation to live. The cost of taxes and utilities would be considered obscene in most parts of the United States. We have driven out a substantial portion of our senior citizen population and, even more crucial, our laborers for the lower paying jobs. Not that they wanted to go, but our economy has made them flee to places where they can afford to put a roof over their family's head and buy the necessities of life, something that is becoming harder to do each day you remain on Long Island.

Now, months before budgets are offered to the taxpayers for their approval or disapproval, school boards should be examining the possible elimination of frivolous electives that serve only a small segment of the population.

We encourage our readers to attend their school board meetings, speak out and speak up. Let the boards know of your concerns and ask for reasonableness in education.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"Providing our youth a healthy start"

Dear Editor:

The political mind is indeed a wonderful instrument. As we have all noted, substance abuse issues were the 'hot' item on this past year's political ticket. Politicians, some of whom had never recognized or understood the issues, were suddenly on the bandwagon. Better late than never is certainly a justified reaction. Individuals involved in waging what had been a losing battle indeed welcome long overdue political support. This support, however, must be sincere and farsighted. Commitment made in these areas must be carefully thought out, planned and executed. The process, if we truly care about effective implementation, must always be above party politics. Comments recently attributed to a Suffolk

County legislator leave me uneasy regarding the real commitment of that body. As you may remember, a call was made to remove certain drunk driving spots that were being aired on local radio stations. We were told that the speaker misrepresented himself by failing to insert the word 'acting' before his title. Missed entirely was the plea to drive sober and save life.

If we truly desire to create an environment that is drug free, if we are sincere in providing our youth with a healthy start, we must put decisions based on politics behind us.

Ray Walsh
Director of Health
and Physical Education, Athletics
South Country Central School District

"Recent editorials are on target"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your recent editorials are right on target! Ours is a government of, by and for the people, and now, more than ever, it seems, we have to work hard to keep it that way.

The governor's transportation package is one place to start. New roadways cost millions of dollars to construct (many more in this area than elsewhere in the U.S.) and often cause severe environmental damage. Moreover, historically, new and improved roads generate yet more traffic; as vehicles fill the available spaces, new roads are needed, and soon. At a certain point, the paved areas of the island will exceed areas available for homes, food production, recreation, and--most important of all--water recharge.

Therefore, Long Island legislators should be asked to look carefully at some mass transit options. Electrification of the Main Line and the Port Jeff line should be continued, improving mobility between east and west. But what about people commuting between north and south? To the government centers in Riverhead or Hauppauge? It takes much pa-

tience and perseverance to learn a bus schedule, to locate the stops, or--especially--to make connections with another route. No wonder so few people even think of the buses. Quick! What's the fare?

One hundred years ago, someone proposed a direct tramlike service between Port Jeff and Patchogue. What about some high speed trams along other heavily travelled corridors? Let's urge our legislators to get Long Island a share of the Mass Transit monies as well as highway dollars. Let's get them to persuade the governor to use the Westway trade in money for capital improvements of the MTA--not a Manhattan road benefitting campaign contributors who want to build luxury housing on the Hudson River north of the Battery.

As Long Island's population grows older, convenient reliable public transportation will become increasingly important. Our legislators should be planning now--not quarreling about who gets to build the biggest road.

Yours,
Elizabeth Shepherd
St. James

"The county can save money"

Dear Editor:

The county can save money by more than hiring freezes and the elimination of no-show jobs or those with inflated titles. It can do so by two other means as well. One is to see to it that every employee with a civil service job title actually works in that specific title. The other is seeing to it that no employee is being punished through assignment to remote, obscure duty stations, with little or no meaningful work to do.

A person given a patronage job in government may still give the taxpayers their money's

worth, but a person doing one job while getting paid at the rates of another cannot. The person being punished with enforced idleness and/or self-limiting circumstances is a rip-off altogether, as well as a blameless victim in many cases.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope you find this worthy to print.

Sincerely,
Ann Ammon
North Patchogue

"Thanks from Bide-A-Wee Home"

Dear Mr. Grasso:

On behalf of our staff and pets, thank you and your own staff for running some of the photos that I've sent you recently. Kathy Young asked me to please send you a letter expressing our appreciation for all the help you've given us.

Thanks to Suffolk Life's continuous running of Bide-A-Wee pet pictures, we're delighted to tell you that the Westhampton shelter has had tremendous luck in placing many of the

animals featured in the shots. Kathy says that they've gotten very good responses to the photos you've used, and sends you a hearty thank you!

The same message goes for myself and let's keep up this wonderful relationship. All best regards!

Sincerely,
Sue Burkat
Publicity Associate

"Open letter to Bauman & Sons Buses"

Dear Sirs:

Weather conditions during the afternoon dismissal on Thursday, January 23, 1987 were extremely poor. Aware of the fact that the snow had made driving an extremely difficult task, we at Great Hollow were braced for a major problem in attempting to transport our children home.

However, due to the dedication and efforts of the Bus Drivers who service Great Hollow, the anticipated problem never materialized. Although we did not receive a full complement

of buses, the drivers that managed to arrive effectively distributed the missing routes onto their buses and transported all of our students home.

Their patience, cooperation and concern are to be commended. We at Great Hollow want to say THANK YOU for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Sal Guadanino
Asst. Principal
Great Hollow
Intermediate School

NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

1461 Old Country Rd. (Route 58)
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-2026

Main & General
Office
369-0800

News
Office
369-0810

Classified
Office
369-0820

Where's the Backbone?

The nominations of prospective appointments to the Public Service Commission continue to be stalled by the arrogance of Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, who is miffed by the fact the governor submitted the nominations without first seeking "advice and consent" from Anderson. This political tantrum could be very costly to the Long Island ratepayers of LILCO.

Within the past couple of weeks the PSC has conducted public hearings on a proposed \$102 million rate increase filed by LILCO. Included in that request is a partial phase-in of funding for the Nine Mile Point 2 nuclear plant, LILCO owns 18 percent of that plant, and reimbursement for planning monies expended for the rejected nuclear plants LILCO wanted to build at Jamesport. If LILCO is permitted to hit ratepayers with those expenditures, the cost of electricity, when Shoreham costs are added to the rates, will more than double.

It is imperative, therefore, that those named to the six slots to be filled on the PSC be far more consumer-oriented than some of the commissioners being replaced. One of the nominees offered by the governor, Deputy County Executive Frank R. Jones, undoubtedly fills that bill. And others nominated by the governor, including Frank Bradford, selected by the governor as chairman to replace utility-ally Paul Gioia, would be a welcome change from the past.

The problem is that these appointments are being held up because Warren Anderson is angry. Anderson's temper tantrum is complicated by the fact that Long Island senators rarely stand up to their leader. They showed they could do it recently when they stood firm

against the proposed MTA financing plan which would have burdened suburban residents for services they do not utilize. They stood firm and got their way. And we applaud them for that.

We're waiting for them to show the same backbone now. It is vitally important for Long Island ratepayers to have the governor's appointments confirmed by the senate. It appears now, according to a spokesman from Anderson's office, there will be no resolution to the problem until early April, after the state budget is approved. That delay would benefit no one but Anderson...and LILCO.

It may well be that Anderson is miffed because of what he considers to be a breach in protocol. Or it could be that he doesn't want a consumer-oriented PSC. It has been often reported that the upstate law firm with which he is affiliated has a number of utilities as clients. Is he concerned about the people? Or the utilities?

It is imperative that Long Island's senate delegation stand united on this issue, making Anderson keenly aware that these nominations must be confirmed without further delay. We doubt very much that Governor Cuomo is going to back off. And if indeed he does, it could well be the next nomination he makes would not be in our best interest. The nominations awaiting confirmation offer us the best chance we have of changing the way the PSC has ignored the ratepayers to benefit the utilities.

Our senators showed they had backbone once in standing firm on the MTA financing issue. It's time they had it again in pushing for the confirmation of Cuomo's PSC nominations.

And why not?

Paying For Three Fiascos

The Public Service Commission held its final public session last week on the proposed \$102.3 million rate increase requested by the Long Island Lighting Company. That request, according to LILCO, does not include any proposed funding for the Shoreham nuclear power plant. It does include, however, funding requests in the amount of \$138.7 million for two other nuclear power plants. If approved, LILCO ratepayers would be asked to shoulder the burden of not one, not two, but three nuclear fiascos which LILCO has been involved in.

The first, of course, is Shoreham. The full financial impact of that facility is not yet known, but predictions indicate Shoreham itself will

cause electric rates on Long Island to double over a ten year span.

The second is Nine Mile 2. LILCO owns 18 percent of that project which, like Shoreham, has been hit with tremendous cost overruns and is long delayed. In its rate increase, LILCO claims it has taken into account reductions in fuel costs and other fuel cost savings it anticipates from the commercial operation of Nine Mile Point 2. But the PSC notes that since LILCO filed its rate increase data, the commercial operation date of Nine Mile 2 has been put back from the June 1 date it used in the filing to September 1, 1987, and is subject to possible further delays. LILCO is seeking 74.6 million as a partial phase-in of Nine

Mile 2. That plant, like Shoreham, has been subject to imprudent management and costs, and a proposed settlement would disallow a percentage of its costs. The amount of the disallowed portion is yet to be finalized.

The third nuclear fiasco deals with the ill-fated Jamesport nuclear plant which never made it off the drawing boards, rejected by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in early hearings. LILCO wants to recover \$64.1 million in planning costs. That claim is also the subject of a continuing prudence investigation, which is not expected to be concluded in time to reflect its findings in the current rate case. The PSC staff has proposed to limit LILCO's recovery to about \$20 million.

Although the proposed rate increase filed by LILCO is listed by the PSC as \$102.3 million, the total for the two recovery requests for Nine Mile 2 and Jamesport is \$138.7. In fact, LILCO is seeking \$245 million in new money. That amount is offset by the following factors which are subtracted from the \$245 million: gross margin on increased sales (\$29.5 million); reduction in the cost of capital (\$29.8); net change in federal

income taxes as a result of tax reform (\$59 million); and other changes in the tax rate (24.4). The reductions total \$142.7 million.

Savings resulting from tax reform and cost of capital have resulted in a proposal by the PSC staff to reduce electric rates of Consolidated Edison by at least \$165 million. The PSC was scheduled to begin hearings on February 24 on this proposal. Consolidated Edison has been directed to show cause at the hearing why its electric rates should not be reduced to reflect the effects of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the lower cost of equity. The same could have applied in LILCO's case except for the LILCO request for the additional of \$245 million.

LILCO has been advertising extensively in recent times about how it is working harder to please its customers. At the PSC level, however, its working even harder to drive its ratepayers to the brink of financial disaster by hitting them with the costs of not one, but three nuclear fiascos. We thought you should be aware of what's happening.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

"What then is the answer?"

Dear Editor:

I wish to express the concern of the Smithtown Conservative Party on the issue of run-away taxation and the public employees who think they have a mission to create bigger and bigger departments to do things for us.

We find the U.S. Congress calling the Graham-Rudman Act, which they passed to control spending, a dead issue.

We find the state government, under Governor Cuomo, spending 50% more than when he took office, and then taking bows for the great job they're doing.

The county government enacted a cap to limit the amount they could raise the budget each year, and they can't live with it.

School districts with declining enrollments are spending more and more each year. Some districts have half the enrollment they had a few years back, but their budgets are twice the amount they were then. Has quality increased? Not by any measurable degree.

I have heard people brag that they pay \$500 and \$600 a month in taxes. When asked what they are getting for that amount, they are at a loss for words. The reason is we are getting no more than people in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ohio, etc. who pay less than half of the amount we pay.

What then is the answer? The answer is less government overlap and programs on all levels. Do we need a youth bureau, senior citizens bureau, consumer affairs, housing, police, highway department, narcotic departments, etc. on federal, state, county, town and school district levels? As an example - isn't the town youth bureau sufficient? Just what do the county and state youth bureaus do except perpetuate bureaucracy?

Your cooperation as alert, active, interested citizens is necessary to stop this trend.

Sincerely yours,
Harold E. Haar, chairman
Smithtown Cons. Party

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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