

## Favor Town Ownership

There will be a public hearing January 23 on a county resolution to fund surveys of Peconic and Gardiners Bays, pursuant to a county takeover of these waters from the state's jurisdiction. The funding measure calls for an expenditure of \$75,000. Currently, these bay bottoms are owned by the state. The state desires to turn the ownership and control over to the county, so that the county may lease out these bay bottoms to commercial shellfishing operators.

Most bay bottoms in Suffolk County are controlled by the towns. The control rests in the hands of elected trustees. The bay bottoms in most areas are held open for the use and benefit of the population of the towns, as specified under the original Dongan Patents. Currently, the bay bottoms of the Peconic and Gardiners are open to town residents as well as outsiders through permit. These waters contain some of the best clam, oyster and scallop beds on the East Coast. Hundreds of families make decent livings by working these bay bottoms commercially. Many young men and some women also work these bay bottoms intermittently, helping to support themselves and paying for their further education.

In the Town of Islip, huge tracts of

bay bottom are leased to a few private companies. These companies, using hydraulic equipment, dredge the bay bottom, and they alone benefit from what they reap. There is some justification for the leasing of some bottoms, but most bottoms are accessible to the average clammer working with rake and tongs.

The proposed measure calls for the leasing of 50-acre parcels that would be set off by buoys and markers. These buoys and markers would end up as hazards to navigation, and would interfere with the surface recreational and commercial fishing.

The proposed measure needs substantial study and explanation before it is considered by the legislature. Would it not also make more sense to deed these bay bottoms to the towns in which they lie, as are all other bay bottoms in the County of Suffolk? Why not allow each town to develop its own fishery, promulgating its own rules and regulations for the benefit of the residents of that town. The government closest to the people serves it best.

If you are not doing anything on January 23, and you are interested in the bay bottoms and what happens to them, turn out for the public hearing. And why not?

## The Ghost of Margiotta

During 1981, Nassau County's powerful Republican political leader, Joseph Margiotta, was on trial twice. The first trial ended in a hung jury, with two-thirds of the jury voting for acquittal. The second trial ended with Margiotta's conviction on six counts.

More than Margiotta was on trial; it was our entire political system, the system of patronage and influence that has been the backbone of political parties since the development of organized government.

There is a huge difference between corrupt and honest government. Yet, in politics, there is really only a hairline in between, a hairline that is not unequivocal or well-defined. For years, political parties, both Democratic and Republican, split up the spoils of office amongst party

faithful. The spoils took many different forms. They were insurance commissioners - and the split thereof was what Margiotta was found guilty of overseeing and benefiting from. They were legal notices in newspapers. Many small weekly newspapers could not continue to publish if it were not for the subsidies they received from government, through political patronage and the sale of their editorial souls. Many lawyers would find it more profitable to shovel ditches, particularly in the early days of their careers, were it not for government business or appointment to the district attorney's or county attorney's office. Numerous banks have benefited from municipal deposits, thanks to their support of individual candidates and political

parties. These people and businesses, in turn, contribute to the political parties, giving the leadership the funds needed to run the organization and the campaigns that elect the public servants that run the government.

The ghost of Margiotta's conviction today haunts all organizations and all leaders. What is legal? What is illegal? If a person or a business makes a contribution, is he then forbidden to do business with the government? If the leader or organization accepts contributions, must they then refrain from associating with those who made the contribution? We have discussed this situation with several leaders from both parties. Confusion and paranoia are rampant. As the Margiotta trial was a federal prosecution, they are looking to Congress and the federal government for specific guidelines as to what might be considered legal or illegal.

The way the law was constructed up

to the Margiotta conviction, it was legal for a political leader to use, to barter or to sell his influence and to personally profit from it. This, of course, is ludicrous, for it went too far. The only thing standing between honesty and corruption was the leader's personal sense of morals and ethics. For a number of years, we have advocated the passage of a statewide, perhaps federal, law making it illegal for a political leader to personally benefit from using his influence through the disbursement of political favors. If such a law were passed, it would give a clear-cut guideline for all political leaders to follow, instead of forcing them to depend upon their personal interpretation of ethics and honesty.

The Margiotta conviction mandates that such a measure be passed now, or it will lead to paralysis of our political system and the government which it controls and influences. And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

### "We will keep you informed"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On December 14th, 1981, the U. S. Supreme Court, in an ill considered 7-2 decision, denied Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange claims, access to federal courts because the court felt there was no federal common law on which jurisdiction could be based. I need not go into the merits of the veterans' case, that is supposedly the duty of our federal courts. It is, however, a travesty of justice that the U. S. Supreme Court would shirk that duty and deny veterans their day in court on a procedural technicality.

It defies reason, how the court could find no federal interest in the veterans' suit. These veterans were part of the U. S. Military fighting in a war because of federal government decisions. Agent Orange was produced because the U. S. Government contracted for it. Our veterans were exposed to the herbicide by their own government. Yet a federal court can state the federal government's "interest in the outcome of this case is undetermined."

As a result of this short sighted determination, veterans must return to state law to seek relief. In seventeen states the statute of limitation has expired, leaving veterans with no remedy. A similar fate could have befallen New York veterans, if the State

Legislature had not addressed this issue.

On June 16, 1981, a bill sponsored by myself extending the statute of limitations for Agent Orange related injuries became law. Under the old law, most veterans were denied access to court because the three year statute of limitations began to run at the time of exposure to Agent Orange which occurred in most cases more than a decade ago.

The new law does two things. First, the statute of limitations was changed from three years from date of exposure to two years from the discovery of injury or the case of injury, whichever is later. Second, all claims which were barred by the statute were revived for one year.

As a result of my service in Vietnam, I received wounds (loss of both legs) which were visible and I received the attention and care that was necessary for my rehabilitation and recovery. The many veterans who have been exposed to Agent Orange have suffered with afflictions that are far more intangible, yet they are equally serious. While the federal government has neglected its responsibility, at least New York will afford its veterans their day in court.

Sincerely,  
John L. Behan  
Member of Assembly

### "Afflictions that are far more intangible"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter to State Attorney General Robert Abrams which is self explanatory.

Also enclosed are copies of our correspondence so far with the Honorable Peter F. Cohalan, County Executive.

This writer wishes to commend you personally for your expose of the Long Island Lighting Company.

Very truly yours,  
Richard G. McCollum,  
Chairman  
Planning Board  
Sag Harbor

Dear Mr. Abrams,

This writer read the full text of your testimony before the Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and

Commissions hearing of December 10, 1981 held in Hauppauge, New York. In view of your concern of the management of the Long Island Lighting Company, we are enclosing copies of our correspondence with County Executive Peter F. Cohalan, which may be of interest to you.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

The full text of your testimony was published in the December 16th issue of SUFFOLK LIFE. This newspaper is to be highly commended for keeping the residents of Suffolk County informed on the performance of the Long Island Lighting Company.

Very truly yours,  
Richard G. McCollum,  
Planning Board

### "Thank you"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the publicity you have given the Medford Taxpayers and Civic Association this past year.

On behalf of all the officers and members I

would like to wish you and your staff a very happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,  
Michael Bryant, president

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

Vol. 21 No. 20

and Suffolk County Life

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Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
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## Governor Who?

It's almost a year off, but behind the scenes there is fierce jockeying for the Republican nomination for Governor of the State of New York.

Last Thursday, the 10 Suffolk Republican town leaders announced their support for Peter Cohalan, Suffolk's county executive. As Suffolk county executive, Cohalan has developed excellent name recognition throughout the state, and his record as a chief county administrator, and as supervisor of the Town of Islip, makes him worthy of serious consideration. Currently, the two front-running candidates are Ned Regan, the popular New York State comptroller. Regan is known as a political independent. He led the ticket four years ago, winning while Suffolk County Assemblyman Perry Duryea went down to defeat as the party's gubernatorial standardbearer. Regan is currently showing up tops in name recognition polls. Lou Lehrman, the founder of the RiteAide drug store chain and a heavy contributor to the Conservative Party, has emerged as a strong contender. During the next few weeks, he is expected to air a statewide television blitz that he hopes will gain him enough name recognition to become the party's gubernatorial choice. He has already secured the tentative backing of the state Conservative Party officials.

A dark horse in the race is James Emery, the Assembly minority leader from Genesee. Emery has more than 20 years of government service under his belt. As Assembly minority leader, he has been the one friend Suffolk County has had in Albany. He has been receptive to our needs, willing to listen, offering ideas and getting things done. He has a strong base of support upstate. He is well liked and well respected in both the Republican and Conservative parties. His position on fiscal issues as well as social legislation have been and are in tune with today's voters demands.

The Republicans have a good shot of electing a Republican Governor in 1982. The Republican leaders must

decide not only who has the best shot of winning in November, but who will have the best chance of winning if a primary develops. Regan, Lehrman and Emery all look attractive, but so does the candidacy of Peter Cohalan, one of our own. Suffolk County Republican leaders were wise in their decision to announce their support for Peter Cohalan early, for it not only offers the leaders throughout the state a qualified alternative choice to the three frontrunners, but puts Cohalan's name into consideration not only for governor but also for lieutenant governor. It also gives the leaders of Suffolk County a bargaining position and pyramids the influence they should have.

Suffolk has been short-changed in the past in receiving the recognition and the patronage it deserves. The gubernatorial race should help once and for all establish Suffolk statewide as a base of power, especially since the power Nassau County GOP leader Joseph Margiotta once wielded over all Long Island has been diluted. Suffolk should grasp the opportunity and come into its own. In playing this game of politics, the leadership in Suffolk appears to be playing smart cards by keeping its hand close to its vest, while deliberating over who their friends in the past have been and who will be in a position to do Suffolk the most good as governor. As Suffolk's leadership has learned the hard way, there is little value in sticking your neck out and supporting a candidate who, when he becomes successful, forgets you even exist.

Peter Cohalan is an excellent choice as not only as a favorite son but as a viable candidate for governor. Even if the top spot cannot be secured for him, the Suffolk Republican leadership will be in an enviable bargaining position and should be able to negotiate a top spot for Cohalan and at the same time establish Suffolk as a force to be bargained with once and for all. And why not?

## Facing The Facts

A couple of month's ago, we judged the Southampton College Long Island High School Journalism Contest. One of the best features dealt with teenage alcoholism. Recently, we were given a copy of the **Rip Tide**, a Riverhead High School student newspaper. The subject again was drinking among students.

The **Rip Tide** feature included a survey, article and an editorial. The survey revealed some startling, but not surprising, information. Some 74 percent of the 750 respondents in the 1980 survey indicated that they drank. The ages ranged from 13 to 17, although the legal drinking age is 18. All age groups from 13 on up indicated that they were able to easily purchase beer, wine and liquor in some of the stores that sell alcoholic beverages in the town. Teenage alcoholism was once rare

but is, today, tragically commonplace. What once was an occasional beer at a Saturday night football party, has become a regular drinking habit for many students.

Kids, like many of their adult counterparts, don't have the slightest knowledge about how addictive and debilitating regular consumption of alcohol can be. Colin Campbell, the director of the Suffolk office of the Long Island Council of Alcohol, has often been heard to say he would prefer to see somebody addicted to heroin than alcohol, for it is easier to bring somebody down from heroin than it is from alcohol.

Is there an answer to alcoholism, particularly alcoholism amongst the young? Unfortunately, there is no easy solution. Kids see their parents drink and reason to themselves, "if it is okay for them, it should be okay for

me." Even with those parents who are teetotalers, they are subjected to a constant barrage of drinking on the boob tube. For the heck of it, watch tonight's shows and count the number of times alcohol is used or referred to.

What isn't shown in the glorious light is today's headlines in newspapers. Careful research will reveal that most of the tragedies, accidents and homicides are alcohol-related. Some month's ago in a discussion with Campbell, he shocked us by pulling out 12 of the major stories of that week. Eleven of them could be attributed to either alcohol or drugs. They ranged the gamut from a friend shooting a friend to a young father beating his son to death. Like most people, we had read the stories but never realized the cause.

One of the articles in the **Rip Tide**, by Chris Worthington, is entitled **Alcohol, The Subtle Killer**. Dramatically it refers to a Riverhead High School student being murdered. Unfortunately, it is all too true. For as many years as we can remember, students from the Riverhead area have been killed or have killed themselves when they have mixed drinking and driving. The same is true throughout just about every community in America.

New York State has a minimum drinking age of 18. Age 18 seems logically right, as we expect 18-year-olds to assume their place in the world as adults. They can vote, they are eligible for the draft and if they do not go on to school, they are expected to work full-time.

A bar owner who runs an establish-

ment that caters to the under 25 crowd, recently said he wished the legislature would change the legal drinking age to 19. He felt that if the age was 19, there would be clear separation from those who were in high school and those who were not. Kids in high school who are 18 are legally able to drink, and they place peer pressure on those younger to join them. He also recommended that the Sheriff's department reinstitute a photo identification system, and that penalties for alteration or forgeries be substantial.

Dealing with teenage drinkers first hand has given him some excellent insights. Although it is the establishment's policy to double proof those they feel are under age, he claims false proof is rampant. He also noted that when they discover people with false proof under 18 and call the parents, the parents get angry at him, rather than take remedial action with the kids.

Changing the law to 19 would take some of the peer pressure off high school students. It would help provide a clear delineation of who are legal to drink and who are not. A fool proof system of identification with severe penalties for alteration would also aid in the cause.

Open discussion in publications and student newspapers are an excellent means of education. We are delighted to see some schools taking their heads out of the sand and facing controversial problems openly and forthrightly. With this change in attitude, there is hope for a solution. And why not?

## The Court Dilemma

Our courts here in Suffolk are out of room. Make-shift court rooms that place a burden upon all are all too common. County Executive Cohalan in his State of the County Address recommended the creation of a new court complex in Hauppauge.

As an east ender, we were disappointed. County courts belong in the county seat. Geographically Riverhead is centrally located, halfway between Montauk and Huntington. The courts and government buildings are one of the largest major employers in the Town of Riverhead and the east end.

We have watched the west end power brokers regularly and

religiously move the county government from Riverhead to Hauppauge. We are sorry to see Cohalan advocating more of the same. So soon we forget our election pledges! Cohalan had promised during his campaign for county executive not to hurt the east end, to stop the flow of the seat of government from Riverhead to Hauppauge. Any new construction of courts should be at the county seat in Riverhead.

Cohalan should rethink his position and remember the pledges that he made. If there are to be new court buildings constructed, let it be in the county seat, Riverhead.

And why not?

USPS 098-300

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VOL. 21 NO. 21

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## Not Feeling Very Good

When Henrietta Acampora ran for the position of Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven, she based her campaign around the theme that she would make the residents feel good about their town. She was down to earth, had the pulse of the people and offered an administration that would show common sense and common concern for the average person within the community.

She has only been in office fifteen days, and she appears to be headed in an opposite direction from that which she promised.

During the campaign, her constituents consistently told her they wanted a lid put on government spending, they wanted their taxes reduced.

Last week, Hennie announced that she was going to provide Brookhaven's five councilmen with cars at the taxpayers' expense. Not stripped down economical cars, but deluxe versions, gas hogs complete with air-conditioning, am-fm radios, free gas, insurance and maintenance. Her justification for this was a complaint by councilmen that because they forgot to put in vouchers for legitimate car expenses on their own cars, they didn't get reimbursed by the town.

Giving each of the councilmen a car is equivalent to giving each a raise of

\$5,000. If Hennie was in such a generous mood with taxpayers' money, why didn't she include a chauffeur that would have created five new patronage positions.

The cars are bad enough, but Hennie, and the town board, went on to do even more damage by creating a new title of "drainage coordinator," covering work which has always been done by the superintendent of highways Harold Malkmes as part of his job. The new title, given to Malkmes, will cost the taxpayers of Brookhaven an added \$3,000, a stipend which went with the title.

This sham gives Malkmes the \$3,000 increase on top of a \$6,000 raise he received on January 1, to boost his salary to \$42,721.

If Hennie wants to make people feel good about Brookhaven, she should rescind the councilmen's cars and abolish the position of drainage coordinator. Both these moves are a waste of hard-earned Brookhaven taxpayer money and a direct slap in the face to the good people who overwhelmingly supported her.

We are truly sorry to see Hennie getting off on such a bad foot as we genuinely like this woman and hope that in the future she governs with the common sense we know she is capable of.

And why not?

## It's Peconic County Time

County Executive Cohalan's announcement last week of a study on a proposal seeking to expand the court system in Hauppauge rekindled the fires in many of us who have feverishly fought for Peconic County over the past two decades.

The need for a separate Peconic County became imperative when the power brokers from the West started to dismantle the county seat in Riverhead and move it to Hauppauge nearly 20 years ago. In effect what they have done is create two county centers, two county seats, the traditional, original and effective one in Riverhead and the unofficial, offshoot in Hauppauge.

We have no objection to Hauppauge being the county seat of Suffolk, so long as Riverhead can be the county seat of Peconic.

The philosophies, the beliefs and the character of the people in eastern and western Suffolk are as different as night and day. Those of us in the east believe in small government, limited services and low taxes. We prefer to be governed by common sense rather than by regulations.

For nearly 20 years, we have advocated the logical split, the long, overdue division of Suffolk County. Suffolk is the only county in the State of New York which never has been split or subdivided. Population wise, it is larger than 14 states, too large to be governed as a county. Dividing the county into two new counties would reduce the size of government in both areas. Making both more manageable; and providing better service to all its people.

The movement for Peconic County as previously designated, the five east end towns, has never been able to surpass the population requirement. A new tack could work if the lines were redrawn to include the portion of Brookhaven that lies in the First Assembly District, which is basically those areas east of the William Floyd Parkway. Most of the people in Brookhaven who live east of the

William Floyd are more closely attuned to the philosophies of the east end than those of the west end.

The Peconic County supporters may now find the political climate better and should put the mechanics into motion for the liberation of the east end.

Peconic County now!  
And why not?

## Carey Shows Rare Foresight

Governor Carey showed rare foresight this past week announcing that he would retire a winner at the end of his term as Governor of New York. Carey's popularity is at a low ebb due to several public relation blunders. He would have had a tough time winning.

Carey's first term in office had been successful. Although politically he was considered a liberal Democrat, he governed as a conservative. He halted the runaway spending that had been created by his Republican predecessors Rockefeller and Wilson. He successfully put together a fiscal package that bailed out the City of New York from imminent bankruptcy.

Carey ran on his record and it was strong enough to win him re-election. He was well thought of enough to even overcome his politically unpopular stance in opposing the death penalty. If Carey ran this time, however political strategists felt that his death penalty vetoes would hurt him substantially, particularly in suburbs and rural areas where there has been an upsurge in violent crimes.

Carey's second term of office was shattered by several bad public relation blunders. The most devastating, probably, was his arrogant attempt to use his power as Governor to have a private citizen's home confiscated and torn down because it would block his view at his summer home on Shelter Island.

He initially claimed that he had the house seized and ordered it dismantled because it posed a serious security threat to his life. The press and the public did not buy this arrogance, in fact, found it ludicrous. Pressure mounted, and Carey was forced to backdown. The whole episode left a very bad taste, for it portrayed a selfish, ruthless man who had no qualms about using the power of his office for his personal pleasure.

Many people initially could accept Carey's personal opposition to the death penalty. But as violent crime increased and touched the lives of more and more average people, they resented Carey's refusal to follow the will of the people. In the midst of the building dissension surrounding Carey, he took off on a junket with several of his aides to Hawaii and Japan. He billed the trip as a business-seeking operation, but the public perceived it as an expensive paid junket. A costly free vacation that was neither warranted or justified.

Last year, Carey married Evangeline Gouletas. What should have been a positive public relations event turned sour when it was revealed that his wife had had multiple husbands, and was not a widow as had been alleged in the corporate biography released about her. Both she and Carey became the brunt of numerous crude jokes, often

deliberately repeated within hearing distance of them and members of the family.

This past year voters spoke loud and clear. They wanted a cutback in government, a return to basics, a reduction in taxes. New York has been a magnet for welfare recipients from around the nation. Benefits paid in New York State are at the top of the scale for the nation. The Republican minority in the Legislature attempted to have a measure passed that would have required an adjustment in New York State's welfare benefits so that benefits here would be averaged out with the other large, industrial states surrounding us. This would have slowed, or stopped, the flow of welfare hopefuls to New York. Carey answered this by forcing through a 15 percent increase in benefits. This increase brought him welfare votes, but was bound to be a campaign issue this year, raised by angry hard working, productive citizens of the state who are going to have to pick up the tab for not only the increased cost, but also the increase in the number of welfare recipients coming to New York State, the land of welfare goodies.

Carey has been no friend to the suburbs. His recent increase in the sales tax to finance New York City's subways and other mass transportation modes has been deeply resented on Long Island, as well as in Westchester and Putnam. The State has done little for the suburbs other than to increase our taxes, while cutting our benefits. Carey was expected to lose the suburbs badly.

Even in New York City, which had been his strength, his image as a good guy has been tarnished. From the loving church-going family man who related to the average worker, he had been transformed, in the minds of the public into a playboy.

Carey's decision not to run is causing a grand scramble in both parties. Suffolk has its own candidate, our County Executive Peter Cohalan. Cohalan is not only serious about seeking the nomination, but even if not successful, sees his entrance into the race as a platform to bring to the attention of not only the leaders, but the voters, the short changing of the suburbs.

Both the Democrats and the Republicans in Suffolk County hold the balance of power in the selection of the candidate for the state-wide ticket. They should use this power judiciously, extracting from the leaders of both parties, and the eventual candidates, pledges of recognition of Suffolk's strength, awareness of our problems and resolutions to solve them.

1982 promises to be an extremely interesting year politically. One that should bring long overdue recognition to Suffolk.

And why not?

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# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Listen to Lehrman

When Lou Lehrman's name was mentioned as a potential candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, we asked, as did most New Yorkers, Lou who?

Information on this man was sketchy. He was a wealthy businessman who had founded and built the Rite Aid Drug Corporation, a 100-unit retail drug chain here in the United States and abroad. His company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange, an accomplishment of no small magnitude. Our first thought was some rich kid's daddy was trying to buy some respectability for his son.

Last week, we met Lou Lehrman. We were impressed.

Lou Lehrman is a wealthy man, wealth earned, not inherited. Earned by believing in America, a land of opportunity. By having an idea, a concept and a willingness to gamble, and work 24-hr. days to see it to fruition. Lou is a family man with strong personal beliefs.

In our discussion we found out one of the things that has made him tick, and be so successful. Where others see problems, he sees opportunities. What others see as impossible, he says "can do." This simple philosophy propelled him to a position of huge personal wealth.

He is approaching his bid for the governorship with the same style and substance. He is refreshingly

knowledgeable about the State, the government and the people. He promises to fight to the end. He already has set up a political organization in every county of the state. He is personally committed to campaigning 24-hour days now through November. He fully expects, and hopes, there will be a primary. He wants a platform to speak from.

We recommend that the party leaders, as well as the voters, listen carefully to Lou Lehrman. His thoughts are refreshing, his ideas innovative. His knowledge of the law gives him the ability to cut through the red tape and the bureaucracy that has brought most voters to a point of frustration.

Lou Lehrman's emergence as a candidate is refreshing and compliments the others, including our own County Executive, Pefer Coahan, who is seeking the Republican nod.

While it is still far too early to tell if Lehrman is the best man for the job, we are pleased to see so many fine qualities in this early candidate. And pleased that others whose names are mentioned as potential candidates are also of outstanding quality. Hopefully this could be the year that produces the kind of Governor New York State needs.

And why not?

## Save \$20 and Die

When Polio was rampant, people payed for a vaccine that would immunize them against this dreaded disease. The vaccine was developed. Millions availed themselves, but millions more didn't. For the life of us we could not figure out why.

About five years ago, smoke and fire detectors reached the state of the art where they were priced so every one could afford them. They could be simply installed. We thought at the time, everybody would buy one. Unfortunately, many Long Islanders haven't.

The tragic headlines in the past week of families being wiped out, killed in a cruel, horrible fashion attests to this benign neglect. For a

lousy \$20, people refuse to give themselves the warning that a fire has developed in the house, a fire that could consume them and all they possess.

Most fires that happen in homes are accidents that come without warning. Wiring shorts out and starts a fire. A spark from a fireplace smolders in the rug until it builds up enough heat to ignite. An oil, gas or hot water burner malfunctions, setting the home ablaze. A forgotten cigarette, or a spark, drops in bed or on furniture, which smolders until it produces flame and smoke which fills the house. Smoke that is as much of a killer as the flames themselves.

Simple smoke and fire alarms are

available in appliance, hardware, drug and electric stores. They range from as little as \$10 to as much as \$50.

A \$20 unit with a first quality battery is good enough. Some homes, because of their layout, require two or three.

Once installed, which is a simple operation even a klutz can perform, the alarms only have to be tested on a regular basis, this is as simple as pushing a button. Change the battery

once a year, whether it needs it or not and you will have years of protection for yourself and your loved ones.

If you already have a fire alarm in your home, do your neighbors, friends and relatives a favor. Ask them if they have an alarm. If they don't, sell them on their virtue. Let's make it a goal that every home on Long Island has a fire alarm in working order.

And why not?

## Super Bowl Loss

The Super Bowl contest has become, without a doubt, the biggest one-day sporting event in America. It is estimated that more people watch this event on television than any other single presentation.

The fever surrounding Super Bowl Sunday, has set off a mad scramble for tickets and a host of Super Bowl parties in private homes, restaurants and meeting places. We read, with interest, it is speculated that over \$1 billion dollars was bet on this game alone.

Less than 5 percent of this betting is legal wagering. Thus, on only 5 percent of the action does the state get a cut. The other \$950 million benefits bookies, and the mob. They get their cut, and no taxes are paid. Although there are laws forbidding gambling, they are ignored.

The State, through its OTB betting parlors could easily be set up to take advantage of this tremendous market.

There are those who say betting is harmful, because those who can least afford to do so can't afford to squander their money, which takes food from the table. They are probably right, but these are altruistic ideas. False bans on gambling do nothing to stop the betting that goes on.

Are we not being foolish in hiding behind laws that don't work when we, and society as a whole, would be better to recognize and regulate, as well as profit from legalized gambling?

Laws that the populace reject have no place on the books, nor do laws that are unpopular and can't be enforced. Our legislature should take the bull by the horns and enact legislation that would allow our off-track betting parlors to accept wagers on all sporting events. It is hypocritical not to.

And why not?

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Once again the Middle Island School Board appears to be working outside the interests of the students and schools in the district. In point is the recent failure of the school board to approve the appointment of Mrs. Cathy Lesiewicz as a clerk-typist in Ridge Elementary School.

Mrs. Lesiewicz applied for the advertised position which is in the budget and had been vacated since the beginning of the school year. She met the civil service requirements and is qualified for the position having substituted as a clerk typist throughout the district for several years. Mrs. Lesiewicz was hired by the district principal for the position, as is district policy, and has been working in the position since December.

The board then failed to approve Mrs. Lesiewicz for the position and reason was not given. This causes one to question why a qualified person who has been active in many community affairs would not be approved for such a position, unless there are personal or political oppositions to the particular individual.

That there are two factions on the Middle Island School Board is a published fact. This district needs to turn its attention to working for the best possible education for the children in the district and rise above the petty bickering that presently is undermining the effectiveness of the personnel in the district. Middle Island's image on Long Island has again been tarnished. Let us work on improving our district and the image we project both in our community and outside our community.

Yours truly,  
Donna F. Kadlec  
Coram

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It has taken almost a month to get back to you but I wanted to express my sincerest thanks.

Due to the fine reporting of Jennie

Oesterreicher on the Dec. 18, 1981 article "Women Unite to Battle Against Hydrocephalus," our new self-help group "KNOW PROBLEMS" is starting to grow. I only wish that the story printed in the Mastic, Moriches issue could be printed in your other editions.

Hydrocephalus strikes 1 in 500 babies at birth. Other people develop it due to a traumatic brain injury.

"Know Problems" is in a position now to offer parents who have hydrocephalic children, information as to where they may obtain financial assistance, informative pamphlets, etc.

Our group is growing very slowly, but it looks promising; and a million thanks goes to Jennie Oesterreicher for her excellent coverage.

If anyone needs help or information on hydrocephalus, please have them contact us at 281-3272 or 281-4514.

Again, thank you,  
Diane Walsh and  
Barbara Gayer

"KNOW PROBLEMS, INC."  
Mastic

Dear Mr. Sievers,

We are writing to you in reference to your extensive coverage in Suffolk Life; concerning our first Annual Kiwanis Golden "K" Installation-Charter nite.

The gaiety of the wine and cheese party in our home is reflected by the inspiration which was captured so eloquently in your article.

Please allow us to thank you personally, and on behalf of all our members in sharing with us a new world which will benefit greatly by your aesthetic kindness.

Sincerely,  
Kiwanis Club of Riverhead  
Golden "K"  
Board of Directors

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 21 NO. 23

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000  
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Suffolk Life is published in 17 market zone editions every Wednesday.



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of 192,000 Circulation Weekly

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

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Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County \$5.00 per year, Outside Suffolk County \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year, outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year, newsstand single copy sales: 25¢ per issue.

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