

## Carey Rebuffed on Gas Tax

For reasons best known to Governor Carey himself, he vetoed a measure that would have changed the collection of sales taxes from gasoline station operators to the wholesaler they buy from. In a rare unanimous vote, the Assembly overrode Carey's veto.

The logic for having the wholesaler collect the sales tax is inescapable. Currently allowing retailers to collect the sales tax has created a system that has encouraged the unscrupulous retailer to buy, in the night, petroleum products from gypsy transporters. These dealers buy their gas for cash from the gypsies. They sell the gas to unsuspecting consumers, charging the sales tax and pocketing these taxes that should

rightly go to the county and the state. It is estimated that the state and county has been cheated out of tens of millions of dollars in collected sales tax revenues by this sham.

Several indictments have been made or are pending against some involved in this practice, while the practice is considered to be widespread. Tax cheating is so lucrative, and so enormous, policing of the situation has become near impossible.

Logically, if the operators must collect the tax from the retail dealer before it is sold to the public, this scam could be controlled. We applaud the Assembly for overriding the Governor's veto.

And why not?

## Consider Two Family Housing

The economics of owning a home today is prohibitive for young couples and many senior citizens.

Young couples just getting started have few options. It is not uncommon for a one or two bedroom apartment rental to run over \$500 per month, plus utilities. To buy a simple, three bedroom ranch, a young couple, in most cases, needs at least \$20,000 down, and then face monthly payments of between \$400 and \$600, due to real estate taxes and a 16 to 18 percent interest rate which the current financial market demands.

Many older couples have based their retirement plans on being able to maintain their homes, once paid for, on a couple of thousand dollars a year. Houses that once carried a tax burden of \$500, today face a tax bill of \$2,000 and more. The fuel that was once 20 cents a gallon costs \$1.25 today. Electric bills that averaged \$10 per month are closer to \$100.

New home construction throughout much of Long Island has virtually come to a standstill. Even in the Hamptons, where new homes are being built at a record pace, they are strictly for the wealthy. They are second homes which do nothing to ease the housing problems facing the

young or the middle income dweller.

The logical answer to this predicament is the legalization of owner-occupied, two family dwellings. Most houses here on Long Island were built to accommodate growing families. They contain three or four bedrooms, usually a den and a living room, and have two bathrooms. These homes can easily be converted inexpensively into a house and an apartment, or two apartments, by simply adding a kitchen. Conversions of these homes would allow the older owner-occupant to cover operating costs of owning the property and to pay taxes, while at the same time giving young couples a less expensive place to live while they save to buy a home of their own in which to raise their own family.

Presently we can safely estimate that a good 10 percent of the homes within our circulation area have already been illegally converted to two family homes. We know this from the number of requests from a single family home for two copies of Suffolk Life. The owners of these homes are subject to zoning violations. They face fines and other penalties.

Babylon, a few years back, faced with a number of homes in this

category, attempted to legalize this situation. Many homeowners refused to register because they feared their assessments would be increased substantially and the income they gained from these illegal rentals would be negated by the increased taxes.

There is no question the more people that are in a community the more services are required, and they must be paid for through real estate taxes. We question, though, how much taxes have to be raised, particularly if there are no children involved which would have to be educated. Logic tells you most older couples would not want families with children living with them in such close proximity. If children arrived on the scene, most owner-occupants would terminate the

arrangement as soon as the couple could find other arrangements.

The key to multiple family housing is the owner's presence. Most homeowners are proud of their possession, maintain it, keep it up and are not tolerant of anyone abusing it. They are on the premises and can stop practices that might deteriorate property values.

We believe the circumstances of our economy, the need for start-up housing for the young and relief for our senior citizens demands that the Town Boards consider owner-occupied two family housing. It is the only immediate, viable, short-term solution to a very real and demanding problem.

And why not?

## Why Weren't The Funds Included?

In the current capital improvement budget, allocations for the proposed Hauppauge court complex, amounting to \$30 million, were proposed by the County Executive and approved by the Legislature. Considering County Executive Peter Cohalan's pledge and public promise, that the courts would stay in Riverhead, East End residents are looking at this move with jaundiced eye.

When word reached the East End about the possibility of a second county court complex in Hauppauge, Cohalan promised East End leaders that under no circumstances would any courts be moved out of the real county center, Riverhead. He went on to assure those who listened, that instead of moving the courts, as was feared, he proposed renovating the existing facilities, and adding additional East End facilities.

The capital improvement budget recently passed does not include the

funds necessary to back up Cohalan's promise, only funds for the Hauppauge complex.

Why?

If there is a need, right now, for additional court space and renovation of current facilities, doesn't it make more sense to expand what you have first? There has been fear, and more than a little speculation, that the power to transfer the county courts from Riverhead to Hauppauge has been taken out of the County Executive's hands. He has done nothing to ease these fears.

We have faith in Cohalan. He is a man of his word, but we would like to see some tangible proof that the courts will remain in Riverhead. We would like to see the funds for the improvements and the expansion in the capital improvement budget approved, passed and signed into law now.

And why not?

## letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We think your Greenport readers would be interested in the discrepancy in the two local papers in regards to the rate increase for the 1982-1983 school budget. In your paper May 19th, Superintendent of Schools Carl Nelson announced the proposal calls for a \$3.82 increase in the tax rate per 100 assessed valuation. Suffolk Times May 13th, editorial quoted also \$3.82. May 20th, the Greenport Board of Education sponsored an ad in the Suffolk Times and stated the increase would be \$1.37 per 100 assessed valuation, and various school activities would not be possible without it. Of these activities, soccer, tennis, golf, track, football, purple quill, jazz rock ensemble, wrestling, is being consolidated with Southold in order to save money. Twirling is paid for by parents, Beachcomber receives paid ads, also the Purple Quill, Jazz Rock and Band pay for their lessons through private teachers. Bowling is paid for by the players. We as taxpayers would like to know what the truth is, and we think the school budget should be voted on in sections so we can have the opportunity in voting for worthwhile increases that benefit our students. Is it not time more emphasis was put on learning and be more conservative how the taxpayer's money is spent? We would like to know why it costs approximately \$4,000 - \$6,000 per student a year in public school and \$800 a year in parochial school.

Concerned parents for Better Education

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I read with horror the terrible thing that happened to your mother. I too am a lady senior citizen, living alone. I am far from frail and believe I could put up a fight, but pray it never becomes necessary. Everybody says something must be done to get justice for our citizens. But when will something be done? My sympathy and best regards go out to your mother and you.

Yours truly,  
Ethel S

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Having long been an admirer of your editorials, I enclose herewith a check to cover two years subscription. Those of May 26th were great — keep up the good work.

Madeline Spitz

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Concerning last week's article on "County overcharged by \$750,000 in R.R. station costs." I remind everyone dealing with the L.I.R.R. (M.T.A.) to keep excellent records because they can't even pay their Engineer's salary properly each week.

Yours truly,  
Gary J. Maner  
(Locomotive Engineer)  
Patchogue

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 21 NO. 46

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000

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Hampton East  
Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
Moriches  
Mastic, Shirley

Patchogue  
Medford  
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Sayville  
Oakdale  
Ronkonkoma

Centereach  
Selden  
Coram  
Rocky Point  
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Three Village

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## Straighten The Base Out

The Suffolk County Airbase should be a virtual gold mine to the county government and the towns surrounding it. It has some of the largest, well-constructed runways on the island. The county owns or controls huge tracts of land on the airbase and surrounding it. There are thousands of square feet of abandoned buildings that should be housing new industries and businesses.

Almost a decade ago, control of the base was turned over to the county when the Air Force abandoned their mission here. The Air National Guard controls a small segment of the base which is continually upgraded and maintained. The rest of the base, instead of being an asset, has been a liability to the county. It has been fraught with political wheeling and dealing that has left it virtually in limbo.

The Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Committee, several years ago, recommended procedures to cut wasted county dollars and put the base on a paying basis through the rental of vacant buildings. This move was initially blocked by former County Executive John Klein. He maintained that the only use for the airport in its entirety was air related businesses.

The committee received clarification from the FAA that allowed buildings, other than those on the flight line, to be used for general purposes. Since then, some buildings have been rented to tenants who have been able to wade through the reams of bureaucratic red tape and wait up to nine months for leases to be signed.

The county terminated the former fixed-base operator and, typical of

county mismanagement, advertised for a new fixed-base operator under terms no one would consider. Finally, in desperation, they made a deal with the current fixed base operator, Molloy Air East, which gave the company virtual control over all of the fuel supply, and most of the tie-down space, hangars and important aeronautic buildings.

It has been alleged that this lease is in violation of FAA rules and regulations governing such rentals. A law suit is expected to force a revision of the county's contract, opening the airbase up to new or enlarged services.

Recently the vice president of Molloy East and the general manager of this fixed-base operation was arrested for an alleged connection with a cocaine bust which is reported to be one of the biggest drug smuggling operations on the East coast. A physical inspection of the base does indicate possible misuse of the prime air-related facilities.

There is no question the county's bumbling attempts to lease the former Air Force buildings chases away more businesses than it attracts. This forces the county into a position of losing potential income, subsidizing a liability rather than turning a profit on an asset.

The County Executive and the Legislature has a responsibility to clean up this mess once and for all. Get the politicians out of the base. Rid the operation of political profiteers. Run the base as a business so that all the people from Suffolk County can profit from it.

And why not?

ready to serve you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sure, some of them do it for the excitement, while others may belong to the volunteer organizations for ego and a sense of belonging. But the real motivating reason is their commitment to serve their communities.

Both organizations require their membership to go through hours of

grueling study and mock exercises so that when their services are called upon, in a real emergency, they can perform as top professionals. Not only must they go through this basic training, but their skills are honed and they are reeducated on a regular, systematic basis.

Each year these organizations ask those they help to support their organizational needs. The request for this support comes in the form of direct mail solicitation, door-to-door fund drives, sponsoring of carnivals, bazaars and barbecues. We encourage you when approached to give more generously than you might for other charities. If they are sponsoring a fund raising event, be it a carnival, bazaar or barbecue, buy tickets, attend their function, support these people. If your local organization uses a direct approach, respond wholeheartedly.

## Stop The Invasion

The Japanese tuna boats are coming. Or should we say, the advanced vanguard is here. With the blessings of the State Department, they are fishing right off our coast at the edge of the canyon. They are fishing for tuna, but maiming and killing everything else in sight.

These Japanese long line fishing boats run out a fishing line 60 miles long. Yes, 60 miles. On each line they have as many as 5,000 hooks, baited and waiting for an unsuspecting fish of any species to hook itself.

The Japanese are only allowed to catch tuna. Fish do not know this. Whether it be swordfish, marlin or shark, it's a free meal to them and they are caught. When the lines are pulled in, the tuna are kept by the Japanese. All other fish are thrown back into the sea, most dead, some injured so badly they die shortly after being released.

This wanton slaughter and waste was graphically portrayed on a recent television show on a Sunday sports program. Last year one boat from Japan fished our waters. Currently there are four. When we hit the height

The fire departments and ambulance corps serve everyone in the community, rich, poor, white and black. There are no bounds or boundaries. If the service provided had to be contracted for, every homeowner and property owner would face a large increase in their taxes. There isn't an organization around that is looking for homeowners to match this potential expenditure, but they do appreciate your giving what you can.

It is of equal importance that everyone contribute something as a show of appreciation and thanks. You only have to be in need of their services once to be appreciative of the professionalism, quality and promptness.

Make sure these people know they are appreciated. Give what you can. And why not?

of the season, there may be as many as 40. Our fisheries cannot stand this kind of pressure from such a highly sophisticated, skillful fishing fleet. When we passed the 200-mile limit to protect our fishery, to appease the Japanese and to patronize our West coast tuna operations, tuna was eliminated as a protected species. No one foresaw the waste and destruction that would result. Today, however, we see it first hand and we must put a stop to it.

Tuna must be included in the 200-mile limit. If it isn't, the fish we eat, including our tuna fish sandwiches that we consume, may rise to the price of caviar, obtainable by the very rich and affluent.

We encourage you to write to your Congressman and Senator and ask them to act now on pending legislation that will include tuna in the 200-mile limit. If you know people living in different parts of the county, ask them to write also, putting pressure on their legislators. Do it now, time is running out.

And why not?

## letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have read your editorial of June 16th "Carey Vetoes death penalty"

During an open meeting held by Ferdinand Giese last fall at Port Jefferson Station, I confronted George Hochbrueckner about the death penalty and the fact he has voted against this bill each time it came up for a veto override — he was, and remains absolutely inflexible regarding changing his stand — he would never vote in favor even though his 2nd Assembly District was overwhelmingly in favor of the death penalty. He told all assembled he would never change his mind — in fact would accept defeat at the polls, if necessary would get out his engineering books and go back to his non-political trade. He knows his constituents oppose him on this matter but he will vote his conscience even though he knows he is opposing them.

I believe if this is made an issue during the campaign for next November's election, that Hochbrueckner can be defeated. My wife and I live in the 2nd Assembly District — I believe the Republican opponent could make good use of this issue — I'd be willing to work on this — most people feel very strongly about this issue. Gov. Carey is stepping down — he's not waiting to be pushed out. Hoch-

brueckner should go with him — on this issue alone.

Sincerely,  
Winfield S. Freeman Jr.

Dear Legislators Blass and Rosso:

I wish to thank you for your efforts in supporting a County resolution for the appraisal of Robins Island.

As you know, Robins Island has remained undeveloped except for scars no deeper than the scratches of a few corn fields. Failure to acquire the Island in our haste to progress by our County elected officials, may result in the loss of our land ethics that have been supported by the County and Town programs for open space, farmland preservation, and groundwater protection on the East End. A decision or lack of one to acquire the Island may well represent an ugly paradox.

Your efforts to continue the struggle for Robins Island are greatly appreciated by the town of Southampton.

Sincerely,  
Martin Lang  
Supervisor

## Worth Everyone's Support

During the next two months, you will be asked to donate to your local fire department and, in some areas, your volunteer ambulance squad.

Both of these organizations are comprised of volunteers who willingly spend huge amounts of their own personal time on training, preparation and service to the community. They stand by and are

USPS 098-300

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## Stop Wasting Our Resources



We fish for recreation and food. We appreciate the natural balance of our bays and ocean and rarely do we ever bring anything home we or friends will not eat. We subscribe to the theory "If you are not going to eat it, let it live."

This past weekend, a sportsman's club held a shark tournament. We were appalled by the picture, published here, in which a number of sharks are disposed of in a large dumpster destined for the dumps. This wanton waste could be avoided by the sportsmen's clubs running tag tournaments, or limiting the catch to Makos, which are delicious and in demand.

We fail to see how sportsmen can really consider themselves sportsmen if they subscribe to tournaments that encourage such senseless, needless killing. We hope other fishermen agree with us and encourage all the clubs to eliminate tournaments based upon wasted kill.

It was also brought to your attention last week that longliners fishing in the Atlantic account for 200,000 to 300,000 bill fish caught per year. Long-lining is an indiscriminate form of fishing. Lines are run out from 10 to 60 miles in length. At intervals as close as 200 feet on this line there are other lines attached, each containing as many as 100 baited hooks waiting for any fish that happen to swim by to grab it.

The foreign fishing fleets, notably the Japanese and Koreans, who use this method of fishing are restricted by law to take only tuna within our 200 mile limit. All other fish are supposed to be released. Most are dead or so badly injured they do not survive.

Longlining should be banned as a

fishing method as it is one of the most wasteful forms of fishing conceived by man. It's indiscriminating and is rapidly depleting the resources of the ocean, particularly of some species considered to be perilously close to not being able to reproduce, and thus destined for extinction.

Let's stop wasting our precious natural resources.

And why not?

## Give The People A Chance

Elected officials (politicians) are traditionally reluctant to act on controversial proposals. They try very hard to avoid having to vote "yes" or "no" on some measures that would cause their constituents to know how they truly believe. The end result of this procrastination is nothing is done.

California residents have the mechanism to take procrastination out of politics and take politicians off the hot seat. It's a workable, statewide initiative and referendum law.

A couple of years back, Suffolk County passed an I & R law. We were, at first, delighted, but that changed when we found out how that

law was deliberately designed to be so filled with loopholes that it was virtually unworkable. It is worthless.

What we need in this state is a sincere effort to create a workable initiative and referendum law similar to that in California. A law that allows the public, through petition, to address their government through a simplified petition method which would allow the public an opportunity to be heard when elected officials duck important issues. A law that allows the public to force a decision when public officials sit on their hands.

Governor Carey was never an outright supporter of initiative and referendum. We hope his replacement, whomever it is, will support such a law. We would like to see the I & R law made an issue in the gubernatorial campaign, as well as in the campaigns for Senate and Assembly seats.

Initiative and referendum is the ultimate in democracy, as it takes from the politicians their control of the people and gives the public a sensible and organized mechanism for the ultimate control of their own lives.

Let's make initiative and referendum an issue in this November's campaigns.

And why not?

## LILCO-Shoreham -A Question Of Money

A lot of us have sat around apathetic and unconcerned during the construction of LILCO-Shoreham. Some were lulled by LILCO's propaganda that the generation of atomic energy was perfectly safe, accident proof. Many others felt that it was beyond their scope of influence and no matter how they felt, they could not change it.

This changed with the accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, an accident that was dreadful in its own right and just seconds away from being a catastrophe. We well remember watching the television news coverage, the shaded maps that showed the possibility that Jersey and Long Island, with the current wind currents, being affected by the radiation. This was an accident that the nuclear industry and LILCO said could never happen.

We, as many Long Islanders, woke up. Since Three Mile Island the safety of Shoreham has become a grave concern, not only to those living around Shoreham, but most families on Long Island.

A recent survey released by the County Executive's office, conducted by Social Data Analysis, indicated if there was the possibility of a serious accident and if people living up to ten miles from Shoreham were ordered to evacuate their homes, they would be joined in a mass exodus from Long Island by over 50 percent of those living here. A half-million families scrambling frantically to get off this sand bar we call home.

It would be pure chaos. There wouldn't be any law and order. It would be every man for himself. One easily can conceive of major tieups caused by accidents totally blocking any hope of evacuation. It would be like somebody hollering fire in a crowded room with the doors opening only inward.

Based on what we know, LILCO should never have been allowed to start the construction of a nuclear power plant on Long Island. But they were, and today the plant is 90 percent completed, although they have not yet

received permission to load the reactor.

LILCO has invested over \$2 billion dollars in the construction of this plant, money they anticipate earning back and showing a profit on. The company is fighting tooth and nail to ward off any delays or possible attempts to stop the plant from using nuclear resources to generate power. They have their investment to protect. As a corporation, this is their first and primary concern.

The County Executive's office, acting on behalf of the public, is attempting through all legal means to have verification of the quality, all construction, procedures, techniques and plans of the plant. They also want assurances that a safe evacuation plan can be developed, one that would work in case of an accident. LILCO is fighting these moves.

The S.D.A. survey statistically demonstrates the concern of the citizens of Long Island as to their safety with this plant. There is a possibility LILCO can be stopped from ever being allowed to start up this plant. It's a long shot, but one that can be given credence if enough people let the County Executive know this is their desire.

If LILCO is stopped from putting Shoreham on line, electrical rates would have to be increased to pay for at least part of the cost of this ill-conceived project. How do you feel about this possibility? Would you be willing to pay higher electrical rates if this plant is not allowed to go on line, and become a potential threat to our lives? It's a question of money.

We ask you as a resident who lives within the shadow of LILCO - Shoreham who would be affected if there is an accident to indicate how you feel. Clip out the coupon on this page and send it to the County Executive so the results may be tabulated and our governmental officials have a clear indication how the citizens really feel about LILCO, and its nuclear plans.

And why not?

### Coupon:

To County Executive Peter F. Cohalan

Dear Mr. Cohalan:

I favor LILCO being stopped from putting the Shoreham nuclear power plant on line. I know this decision will mean I will have to pay increased electrical rates.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

USPS 098-300

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Moriches	Ronkonkoma	Three Village
Mastic, Shirley		



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# The time to act is now!

Are you concerned about the possibility you may have to evacuate your home in the event of a mishap at LILCO's nuclear plant at Shoreham? Do you feel higher electricity rates in the future would be better than living under the threat of a nuclear accident. If so, we ask you to join the many residents who heeded our suggestion last week and clipped the coupon published here, sending it to Suffolk County Executive Peter F. Cohalan as an expression of that concern.

The Shoreham story continues with all its arrogant flavor. Even as LILCO and the county battle over a safety inspection, and LILCO is off on its own inspection being done by a firm hired by the utility, without any oversight by an independent viewpoint, LILCO arranged for the delivery of fuel, which arrived Sunday. Safe or not, LILCO is bound and determined to put the Shoreham plant on line. Safe or not, you will have to live with it, unless you care enough to act.

Clip the coupon, and send it to County Executive Cohalan. Let our county officials, and LILCO and its friendly federal agencies, know the public is truly concerned. The time has come. Act now, or live with the plant and listen carefully for the sirens which will tell you to evacuate should a Three Mile Island accident happen here.

And why not?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE PETER F. COHALAN  
H. LEE DENNISON BUILDING  
Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, New York, 11788

Dear Mr. Cohalan:

I favor LILCO being stopped from putting the Shoreham nuclear power plant on line. I know this decision will mean I will have to pay increased electrical rates.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

## Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Letters to the editor

"Speaks louder than its words"

### Common Sense Seems So Strange

During the 11 o'clock news recently, President Reagan bluntly said he was not going to sign a ban on testing atomic weapons because there was no way we could verify that the Russians were living up to their side of the agreement.

An acquaintance of ours made a derogatory comment about how Reagan was going to "blow up the world." We looked at him in amazement and asked, "Do you trust the Russians?" He said no. "Do you

believe the Russians will live up to their word and not continue to test new nuclear weapons?" He again answered in the negative.

We asked, "Do you believe if the Russians felt they had nuclear superiority over us, they would use it?" He answered yes.

We then asked, "What's wrong with Reagan's stand?" He answered, "I am just not used to common sense from a President."

And why not?

The Long Island Lighting Company has appropriated \$841,000 of a proposed \$183.4 million rate increase to advertise for new customers. LILCO is spending in excess of \$4000 for each full page newspaper advertisement extolling the virtues of the electric heat pump, a heating system which provides heat by pumping heat energy from the outside atmosphere into the home (heat energy exists even in cold air). In the summer, the heat pump reverses its cycle to pump heat from the home and discharge it outdoors (which is air conditioning). If the electric heat pump sounds too good to be true, perhaps that's because it is.

Nowhere does LILCO state, for instance, that for someone heating their home with oil, it could easily cost over \$3000 to convert to the electric heat pump, which requires ductwork to be installed throughout the home.

LILCO's marketing brochure on heat pumps states that, "it provides an average of two units of heat for every equivalent unit of electricity used." This means that their example of a heat pump is rated with a Coefficient of Performance (C.O.P.) of 2.0. If LILCO's heat pump has a C.O.P. of 2.0 at 47 degrees F (the standard temperature for rating C.O.P.), that means as the temperature drops, so does the efficiency of the unit. According to Dan Browne in his book *Alternate Home Heating*, an average heat pump with a C.O.P. of 2.5 at 47 degrees will only have a C.O.P. of 1.54 when the temperature drops to 10 degrees F. Thus, instead of putting out 2 1/2 units of heat, it is only providing 1 1/2 units of heat for every unit of electricity consumed. That translates to an efficiency loss of 39 percent.

At the low temperature of 10 degrees, the heat pump is unable to provide all the heat a home would require, so the auxiliary heating system is automatically employed. This is an electric resistance system, better known as Electric Heat. LILCO claims the auxiliary system would only be required 15 percent of the total heating time, when the outside temperature drops below 25 degrees F. However, according to the U.S. Dept. of energy's booklet, "Heat Pumps," it states, "Typically, when the outdoor temperature drops below 35 degrees F the heat pump must be supplemented by another system, such as electric resistance heating...In areas of the country where the temperature in winter

frequently drops below 25 degrees F, requiring frequent use of the backup heating system, the installation of a heat pump may not be economically justifiable."

Nowhere does LILCO mention how a home's hot water requirements are to be met. Many homes on Long Island, mine included, have oil furnaces, which provide hot water as well as heat. If we junk our oil furnaces for electric heat pumps, must we install water heaters which run on electricity, or natural gas (both of which are supplied by none other than LILCO)?

LILCO has stated in newspaper articles that if Long Islanders switch to electric heat pumps, (contingent upon the operation of the Shoreham plant) we would be less dependent upon foreign oil. I think LILCO's stance has much less to do with Long Island's dependence on OPEC than LILCO's own profit motivation. The heat pump is an ingenious way to sneak central air conditioning into Long Island's homes, and keep us using peak power all year long.

LILCO's new advertising policy is in sharp contrast to that of recent years when the message was, "Conserve! Conserve! Conserve!" Long Islanders did their part to conserve electricity, and were rewarded by LILCO and the Public Service Commission with a rate increase to atone for lost profits due to conservation! After a stunt like that, LILCO wonders why it has lost its credibility with the people of Long Island, as it recently discovered in ratepayer financed public opinion polls. It is not surprising that the public is wary of LILCO, for no matter how much money is spent on public relations work, in the end, LILCO's actions speak louder than its words.

Sheryl Mattern  
Centereach

### "I am compelled"

Open letter to the Republican Party

I am compelled to take pen in hand regarding your placement of Mr. James Roth as candidate to run for the post of Superintendent of Highways for Riverhead Town.

This gentleman seems to be of high creditability for a position of paper work regarding administration. However, what is his qualification, knowledge and experience for plowing snow, surfacing roads, pumping flood areas, ordering grit, loam, etc., for projects?

You had the availability of three men who are of local background for many more years than the candidate of your choice and having somewhat more experience than your choice, yet an outsider from out West was chosen based on administrative and degree background.

Riverhead Town Highway employs a capable secretary to do paper work! Why this choice for Superintendent was made is beyond my reasoning.

It is for reasons such as these that I, by choice, will not be party affiliated and choose to split my voting ticket for the most capable and applicable man to do the job, regardless of whether he is a Republican, Democrat or Independent.

Yours for better sense,  
Virginia Bilski  
Riverhead

### Communal Welfare Centers

Our current system of placing welfare recipients in single family homes and rundown apartment complexes serves neither the aims of the community nor the recipients themselves. This type of housing is expensive to maintain and, because of its shotgun approach, is difficult to follow up on or provide needed services.

Recently, when the State revealed its intention to convert three of the buildings on the Pilgram State complex to a prison, it came to light that there are facilities in the complex for over 18,000 people. There are other housing complexes owned by the county here in Suffolk. Some of these, like Pilgrim, are going to rot and ruin while Social Services finds it near impossible to find adequate housing.

Does it not make sense both from an economic and a sociological standpoint to convert these centers, utilizing urban renewal funds, into communal family-type welfare centers? Where the housing needs can be met? Where cafeteria-style food, assuring nutritional needs of the families involved, can be served? Where cooperative day care centers can be set up, utilizing the skills and services of the welfare mothers on a joint venture? Where maintenance and repair can utilize the labor of men who find themselves unemployed and unable to finance the needs of their families? Security can be easily

maintained, assuring the safety of those who desperately need it.

Our current system already centers welfare recipients in slum neighborhoods and in buildings that are often inadequate, or rundown motels, benefiting the slumlords who rip off the system. Services are scattered, hard to administrate. The system is costly and counterproductive.

It's time to start using the assets we possess and the knowledge we have to better handle and overcome the problems our society has perpetuated.

And why not?

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and Suffolk County Life

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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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