

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Happy Birthday America

We celebrate this 4th of July with the restoration of our Statue of Liberty, the grand lady of America. "Give me your sick, give me your poor" has been the heralding cry heard around the globe by the oppressed, indigent and rich alike.

Because her torch shines bright, people from all nations have immigrated to the United States to seek the "streets laden with gold," and an opportunity to be what they are capable of being.

We once heard an Irish immigrant give a speech in Des Moines, Iowa. He admonished us for not appreciating what we had. He said, in his brogue, "You do not realize what a privilege it is to own a home, be a man of property. It is an idea, a dream for those of us from foreign soil, but never a reality. Here you can freely speak your mind, defend or disagree without the fright of an informer listening in. You can write, you can publish your opinions, support or denounce the administration. If you do not like your leaders, you can eliminate them by ballot. You are not forced to bear arms to change your government."

"America," he said, "is a dream society where poor can get rich. Where a man is never held back by his race, color or creed. America is misnamed, she should be known as freedom or liberty."

You have to see this country through an immigrants eyes to realize its vastness, its potential and the opportunities afforded all. These same words and hopes probably have been conveyed a million times over as immigrants poured forth from Europe, Africa and Asia. Yes, we are a good country, filled with bright minds, ambitious dreams and tolerance for one and all.

We have a right to celebrate joyously our country and our freedoms. With this right comes the responsibility to defend the rights that were initially earned by our forefathers and maintained through adherence to our constitution over the decades. Our country must always be vigilant, strong from within and out. A strong government made up of responsive representative elected officials governing with evenness and fairness. An advanced military technology prepared at a moment's notice to defend our nation from any act of aggression.

This country has developed successfully because of the heterogeneous mix of people and through the good graces of God. We are one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Happy Birthday America. May our lady's light shine as a symbol of welcome to all.

And why not?

Politicians or Statesmen?

We are at the eleventh hour. The current session of the New York State Legislature is in its final moments, if, in fact, it hasn't already ended by the time this editorial appears in print. Tragically, the final gong may have sounded with many important issues left unresolved.

The major issues concerning Long Island are energy, and the quest for fair treatment by our state lawmakers. One of the major proposals to be decided is the establishment of

a Long Island Power Authority. Reports by three groups, one commissioned by Nassau County, another by New York State, and the third by the Citizens to Replace LILCO, have been amazingly in concert. All have indicated ratepayers would be charged less if LILCO is replaced by a public authority rather than remain in its present profit-making form.

The proposal before the legislature, sponsored by the Citizens to

Replace LILCO, would, if kept in its original form, give control to the Long Island Power Authority whose members would be elected-at-large by Long Island residents, and, hopefully, kept free of political interference.

But backroom deals and negotiations are now in progress. Despite the ratesaver savings projected by the three reports, there is intense lobbying going on by LILCO to keep things the way they are, and political pressure is being brought to bear in many ways. We should know the outcome by the time this editorial is printed. We will know whether we have politicians or statesmen representing us in Albany.

There are a number of energy bills before the legislature including one dealing with the much needed reorganization of the Public Service Commission, and another with a clarification of the "used and useful" portion of public service law

which would protect ratepayers from having to pay for unneeded and unused plants. These bills, for the most part, have been held up in the Republican-controlled Senate by Majority Leader Warren Anderson. For far too long the Republican senators who represent us have been unable to overcome Anderson's control.

Suffolk County legislators, at a recent press conference, delivered a message to our upstate representatives: "If you don't bring home the bacon, don't come home." We second that message.

If our Long Island senators fail to deliver for Long Islanders, they should not be sent back to Albany. We don't need impotent people representing us. We need strong representatives who are willing to do battle with the political leaders who follow the call of the utilities, rather than meet the needs of the people.

And why not?

Boondoggle in the Making

"If at first you don't succeed, try again." That age-old adage is, undoubtedly, the motto of those who dream of a grandiose court complex to be located in western Suffolk. They're still trying, and despite earlier setbacks, they now appear to be on the verge of success.

The pro-court complex forces, made up of attorneys who use the courts and the judges who sit in them, have forged some strong political allies. Among them is County Executive Peter F. Cohalan, himself an attorney and a rumored candidate for a judgeship in November's elections.

Cohalan, in two political moves, has been trying to advance the court complex proposal to approval by the Suffolk County Legislature. It now appears the complex proposal is slated for legislative action on the same day that a Cohalan open space proposal, which offers something for all legislators in pure pork barrel fashion, will be acted upon. This schedule is designed to force legislators to accept the court complex in order to get the open space approval for land within their districts. It's a pressure move pure and simple, motivated not by good government but by raw politics.

Cohalan has also proposed the court complex be constructed by the State Dormitory Authority which, he claims, would prevent the project from becoming a massive public works boondoggle as did the Southwest Sewer District. If Cohalan really believes that, he's having prob-

lems with reality. Although the project is now estimated to cost \$100 million, Don Gruen, head of the legislature's budget office, predicts \$200 million is closer to reality. We're willing to bet that the ultimate cost would be far greater.

If it happens that Cohalan's open space proposal and the court complex plan are approved by the legislators at the same meeting, that day may well go down in history as the day the legislators bankrupt the taxpayers of Suffolk County.

With future energy costs projected to be doubled, the very real possibility that Shoreham will not go on line and thus not be the financial windfall some have come to depend upon, our legislators are playing with dynamite when they succumb to the pressures of those who are pushing pet projects such as the court complex.

Responsible legislators will seek a full financial impact statement based on reliable figures of future costs before they commit the taxpayers of Suffolk County to an enormous future debt.

Irresponsible legislators will take the easy way out, bend to the political pressure and saddle the public with a court complex plan that will do nothing to improve the quality of justice, just the working environment of western attorneys and judges. Those legislators will deserve the condemnation of the voters the next time their names appear on the ballot.

And why not?

Letter to the editor

'Funds for Ken Tuthill'

To Whom it May Concern:

An account has been established at the Suffolk County National Bank in Center Moriches for the benefit of Officer Kenyon Tuthill who was shot in the parking lot on May 27, 1986.

Donations can be sent to the Friends of Kenyon Tuthill c/o The Suffolk County National Bank, 502 Main Street; PO Box 1274; Center

Moriches, NY 11934.

Any questions regarding this account please call the bank at 878-8800 or Sally Grottni at 878-8749.

Very truly yours,

Edward Burkhardt

Vice President & Manager

The Suffolk County National Bank
Center Moriches

SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 25 No. 46

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
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Energy Bills Pass

We don't know at this point whether we won, lost or drew even. A Long Island Power Authority bill passed both houses, as did a used and useful bill, and will be signed into law by the governor.

There was so much skullduggery, plain hard core politics, changes and amendments to both bills, that the original intent of both bills may have been diluted to such a degree that neither resembles the original versions.

The governor insisted throughout the drama that he be given a used and useful bill. In speaking with him on the eve of the vote, he claimed that being given this bill, he could implement the \$1.9 billion dollar penalty immediately against the Long Island Lighting Company. The effect of this would reduce rates.

Warren Anderson, Senate majority leader, argued that such a move could cause the company to go bankrupt. Anderson had little concern that failure to implement this penalty, caused by the mismanagement and imprudent action by LILCO, should not have to be paid for by the ratepayers but by those who caused the penalty.

As the smoke cleared the morning after the vote, as this is written, both used and useful and the bill authorizing the creation of a Long Island Power Authority had been passed. It is not clear whether the used and useful bill is the bill needed to clarify this legal precedent on a state-wide basis, or is only directed

at the LILCO/Shoreham operation. If this is the case, which we suspect it is, it is a great failure on the part of our elected officials.

Used and useful is a fair principle of law which stops utilities, whether they be LILCO, the New York Telephone Company or the Hogwash Water Company, from entering into expenditures that are not vital and important to the ratepayers of that utility. It should be applied fairly and evenly state-wide as it is in the majority of the states throughout the nation. The principle has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

The Long Island Power Authority bill, in its original form, gave the people of Long Island direct control over the authority and would have, upon the formation of the Long Island Power Authority, stopped Shoreham dead in its tracks. The creation of the Long Island Power Authority will reduce the cost of electricity by at least seven per cent and some financial experts estimate by 20 per cent.

Hopefully, by the middle of next week when this editorial is published, we will know whether we have been made chumps, or our elected officials are champs and deserve a solid pat on the back, rather than a kick in the butt.

Perception often has nothing to do with reality. This morning we fear we are looking at a lot of mirrors and not seeing a true image. We'll wait, and hope for the best.

And why not?

The court complex being proposed is taking on the same ugly characteristics as the Southwest Sewer District. It's being railroaded and rammed through. The legislature is being asked to approve this project blindly. For example, according to Tony Bullock, legislator from the 16th District, the legislature has not been shown the plans or a site plan even though they have requested to see them. Can you build a house without seeing the plans? Of course not. Yet, the legislature is not only being asked, but it is being demanded, that they approve this construction.

Bullock also revealed that if the complex is built in cooperation with the State Dormitory Authority, as is being proposed by Cohalan, there are no requirements for bids by the prime contractor. Like the Southwest Sewer District, it would be a cost plus project. Would you authorize the building of a home if you did not know what the final cost will be?

Don't we learn from our mistakes? It was this type of financial arrangement that led to and allowed the cost of the Southwest Sewer District to go from an estimated \$249 million to well over a billion dollars.

Everybody got their piece of the action, except the taxpayers. They got shafted.

Cohalan was elected to office partially because of the scandals that developed surrounding the Southwest Sewer District. Why is he now setting up a scenario that will repeat the corruption and wanton waste of Suffolk County's resources? Is Cohalan's ego so big he wants to have a scandal the size of the SWSD to taint his name for ever more?

The court complex proposition is estimated to cost well over \$100 million. Because there will be no bidding involved, we will not know what the final cost will be until the final bill has been paid. Who needs this? The court complex proposition stinks, in plain English. It is so ripe that under no circumstances should the legislature be bullied into passing enabling legislation. Every question must be answered. Every idea thought out. There is no great rush to indebt the people of Suffolk County for the next two decades. We hope the legislature has the courage to say, "Hold it, Peter. We want the answers before we give our approval."

And why not?

Where is the D.E.C.?

The D.E.C. is a state branch of government charged with the responsibility of protecting and improving our environment. We have given this agency almost unlimited powers, a huge staff and millions of dollars to spend. The D.E.C. has imposed what some consider unrealistic and punitive regulations on individuals and establishments. Although most of us who have had to deal with the D.E.C. have felt that they have been unresponsive and in many cases, unrealistic, the good that can be accomplished for all was worth our individual inconvenience and sacrifice.

Last year, the pristine Peconic Bay became a "dead sea." these crystal clear, blue waters turned mucky brown. People who had enjoyed these waters for generations refused to swim in them, fish from them or even boat in them. There was much hoopla, but no concrete answers as to what caused it.

An algae grew and clogged the entire waterway. Big fish couldn't see the bait fish and they left. Shellfish, particularly scallops and oysters, were wiped out. Their systems became clogged and they died of starvation. The D.E.C. had no answers, and, apparently, is incapable of coming up with any.

Most hoped and prayed that this was a natural phenomenon that would not recur in 1986. It has, and is worse than ever.

We, as citizens of Long Island, have accepted rules and regulations and bureaucratic mindlessness from the D.E.C. so that our waterways could be clean, clear and enjoyable. We expect the D.E.C. to keep them in this condition. If pollution started, we expect the D.E.C. to halt it. What we have now is a mass of dead sea and a bureaucratic agency that is

just as dead as the water. They have no answers. They claim it is a natural phenomenon. Do they know for sure, or is this just a governmental cop out?

When the D.E.C. was quizzed as to what caused this natural phenomenon they answered, we don't know. They had a red tide up in Maine several years ago and that state's bureaucratic agency doesn't know what caused that, either. These kinds of answers are not acceptable. If the D.E.C. cannot determine what is causing this condition and develop corrective action, then who needs the D.E.C.? A dead sea needs no protection. You can pump all the pollutants you want into it as there is nothing left to kill. Why not build all the homes that the land allows on the water if the water has lost its ecological and environmental quality?

Hundreds of thousands of people come to Long Island for vacations, others have purchased second homes, because of our water. Thousands of people make their living from fishing, boating and recreational use of these waters. Doesn't our state have an obligation to its taxpayers and tax generators? Do we not as taxpayers have a right to demand that even bureaucratic agencies such as the D.E.C. do the job that they were created for?

We are into the second year of a dead sea, and we do not see the D.E.C. concerned or working or having a hope of understanding the problem or developing a solution. We do know that the condition started in the mouth of the Peconic River, a fresh water tributary which has its origin in the Ridge/Middle Island area. The water of the river flows

Cont. on page 4

Another Southwest Sewer District

The stench from the Southwest Sewer District has far from abated and yet, County Executive Cohalan seems hell-bent and determined to make even a bigger stink of his own.

Cohalan wants to commit the county to a huge pork barrel project called a court complex. This com-

plex, for centralized courts in Islip, is being pushed by Judge Arthur Cromarty. Cromarty also had his hand in the Southwest Sewer District. Although he doesn't brag about it, he was one of the prime movers and founding fathers of that infamous boondoggle.

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Where is the D.E.C.? . . .

Cont. from page 3

from underground tributaries through the marshes and swamps of the Manorville area. Many of these tributaries flow through the property controlled by the federal installation, Brookhaven National Laboratory. These properties have been off limits to our county and state health departments. Rumors have circulated for years about waste, both chemical and radioactive, dumped on the site of this facility, and last week the lab admitted to some of these allegations.

We do know there have been fish kills in some of the ponds downstream of the lab. We do know that in 1984 the weakfish that came into the Peconic Bay to spawn in the spring were blinded by some kind of substance that, again, the D.E.C. never publicly acknowledged or explained. The brown algae that hit in 1985 wiped out the whole scalloping industry and devastated the oyster and clam crop. Food fish caught for sport and by commercial fishermen disappeared from the Peconic during the summer of 1985. This same phenomenon that took place in 1985 is repeating itself in 1986, but it has spread to other bays and waters connected to the Peconic and Shinnecock.

We personally observed the spread of this menace over a month ago when we went out on the Shinnecock, anchored approximately 1500 feet southwest of the putrid water, in pristine blue water. In less than an hour, the brown mass had reached our mooring. It was rolling along at approximately six feet per minute in an underwater wave action. The tide was incoming, yet working against the flow, the algae was moving under its own power in a rolling action,

engulfing the clean water.

It will be years before the bay can repair itself if a solution is found now to the problem. As one of the baymen on the dock said the other night, wouldn't it be ironic if we found that some of the pollutants or chemicals that were leeching into the bay actually had been all along controlling the organisms, and it was the D.E.C. itself, through their regulations, that have caused this problem. We chuckled and commented that it would not be the first time that the D.E.C. has screwed up the environment through their misguided rules and regulations.

Remember, it was the D.E.C. that mandated that towns stop burning garbage. They were to dig big holes and bury it. The towns complied. Then the D.E.C. said, "Oops! We made a mistake. The garbage is leaching into the water. Dig up your garbage and bury it in clay lined pits that are covered with vinyl or rubberized liners." At a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, the towns complied.

Then the D.E.C. again said, "Oops! We goofed again. These self-contained burial grounds are producing toxic gases and polluting the atmosphere. Stop burying. Now by 1990 we want you to build multi-million dollar resource recovery centers, burn the garbage and bury the ash in a site we have chosen in the middle of Long Island's most pristine watershed."

We are sick and tired of "Oops! We goofed." from the D.E.C. Aren't you?

If they can't do the job they were created to do, disband them.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'No need for more govt. intervention'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial entitled, 'Government Won't Solve Housing Problems,' struck a painful chord in me that had been moribund since my days as a planning commissioner in town government. In my tenure there, I found local government to be most sensitive to political pressures put on it by the voters and also most responsive. Every law that's enacted by government is a response to a need on someone's part for protection.

Contrary to your assessment, zoning was first created in cities to control private development, to give tenement residents adequate light and air. Since it is the major police power of the local government, it has grown in to a catchall of responses to the will of the citizenry. People came to Long Island for a variety of reasons, mostly to give their families a healthy environment in which to grow and flourish. Government provided affordable housing through FHA and VA mortgages which, essen-

tially, created suburbia.

Now these residents of our communities constantly badger government to 'do something' -- 'to get rid of that abandoned car'; 'don't let them build on the lot where I dump my leaves and walk my dog'; 'stop the group home'; 'harass my neighbor for me.' The state of local government is partially the product of community pressures. It is somewhat a reflection of the noisy tugging and pulling of selfish neighborhood interests. Everybody wants government to take care of them, but not take care of the other guy.

You are absolutely right -- we don't need more government intervention. But government will continue to respond and intervene as long as people demand it. Everyone should go to a public hearing once in their lives to see it happen.

Sincerely,
Stephen M. Jones

'It takes courage to live'

Dear David,
CONVICTION'S COURAGE

What do we really believe? Think about why we are here. What is so significant about our purpose? I believe that my inner sense of purpose is most important. Recently I asked myself, "How can my life help shape my belief patterns?" Today more than ever it takes courage to live by our convictions.

News stories tell us of a fast crumbling world. A nuclear power plant in Chernobyl has contaminated a part of our earth for centuries. Damage to life on earth has yet to be measured. Learn from the Russian accident. Shut your T.V. and open your eyes to the potential nightmare we have in the LILCO nuclear power plant at Shoreham. A close friend once described our world as a dark tunnel sealed at both ends and filled with

explosives. Perhaps this is a fact. Am I naive to consider that there is still hope?

I cannot allow myself to be complacent. Ignorance is bliss but not in this case. Ignorance is danger.

Each of us houses insuperable inner strength. We the people have power. This power does not exist in a certain sex, age or occupation. The power I speak about needs no money. You can write letters. Attend rallies. Speak out at meetings. Act now. Act in order to survive and yes even enjoy an existence in the face of nature's odds and life's threatening insecurities.

The people can no longer live with lies. We will live through the courage of our convictions.
Sincerely yours,
Stephanie Kosteci Costanzo
Port Jefferson

'Freedom of the press for democracy'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You ended one of your February 19 editorials with the sentence "That must also make the day that we finally stand up and say, we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore, and begin to fight to restore democracy in our lives."

Democracy, as defined in Webster's New World Thesaurus, not only states: "Justice, the greatest good for the greatest number," but also: "Equality, individual enterprise, capitalism, Laissez-Faire, freedom of the press, the right to work, private ownership, emancipation, political equality and democratic spirit," among others.

No one ever said that in order to live in, experience and maintain fully the hard fought democracy our forefathers called "The United States of America," that we had to accept the responsibility of being thoughtful, considerate, kind, sympathetic, tolerant, sincere, conscientious, fair, just, objective, consistent, orderly, loyal, honest, truthful, disciplined, constructive, productive, resourceful, realistic, practical, economical, efficient, optimistic, positive, forward thinking, attentive, logical, analytical, intuitive, discerning, astute, keen, intellectual - or God fearing.

It's only in a democracy such as ours -- a "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave," that we are expected to tolerate the negligent, indifferent, crafty, deceitful, selfish, vascillat-

ing, inconsiderate, pessimistic, belligerent, domineering, intolerable, shallow, egotistical, pretentious, arrogant, pompous, stubborn, obstinate, impractical behavior of some corporations as well as government agencies and individuals. LILCO, FEMA, NRC, BLAKE, CARNEY, HODEL, NASA and GERSHOW, to mention a few, all have exercised the right in our democracy to shrug off any and all attempts to make them accountable and responsible (the greatest good for the greatest number - not withstanding).

It's democracy that allows them and others like them, throughout our land, to interpret our democracy.

You as an editor, and others like yourself, continually publicize their behavior and actions so that the populace can exercise their right to know what's going on. Democracy is in our lives and working full tilt - else there would be no controversy on either side. Recently released Anatoly Shcharansky would attest to that, I'm sure. The right to criticize carries with it the obligation to do something about it -- and you certainly have demonstrated -- by precept and example, that freedom of the press remains alive and well.

Keep up the good work.

Regards,
Ray Bieber
Patchogue

'Parents to prevent nuclear lunacy'

To all Concerned Parents:

A meeting was recently held at the Rocky Point High School in which concerned parents were invited to discuss the LILCO-Shoreham evacuation. The guest speakers included Gregory Blass, Leon Campo, Nora Bredes and others organized in Shoreham opposition. The very large number of concerned parents that attended the meeting came to realize the importance of our school district taking a strong stand against Shoreham and LILCO'S fairy tale evacuation plan.

The last resolution our school district had sent to the NRC was three years old and the parents felt that the statements in it were weak. The issue was placed on the agenda of the next board meeting, due to the many phone calls made to our school officials by concerned parents.

At the board meeting (which was coincidentally held the same day the Russian Nuclear accident was reported) many parents expressed their deep concerns and frustrations over Shoreham and the evacuation plan LILCO has in store for our children. A committee was then formed to amend the existing resolution and create a much stronger one to present at the next school board meeting.

After much research, fact collecting, verifying and basic hard work the committee came up with resolutions we could all be proud

of. Throughout the committee's meetings one thing became clear - LILCO had deliberately misrepresented our school district's position on evacuation to the NRC and had used every underhanded legal means imaginable to open Shoreham, showing no regard for the safety of our children - it was crystal clear that our resolution must be strong so neither LILCO or the NRC could undermine or misinterpret it. While watching the committee's determined search for the strongest wording possible without any intimidation, they reminded me of the patriots that declared our independence from England over 200 years ago.

On May 19th the new resolutions were presented to our school board and unanimously passed. It makes me proud to know that true democracy is still alive and living in Rocky Point. I pray that every school district in the 10 mile EPZ will follow Rocky Point's example and submit strengthened resolutions to the NRC, as the threat of Shoreham is still very real. Shoreham could be licensed tomorrow. As concerned parents the time to fight back is RIGHT NOW, to protect our children from the Nuclear Lunacy of Shoreham.

Sincerely,
Carol Rudd
Concerned Parent
Rocky Point

'Animals placed due to paper'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is just a short note to thank you, on behalf of the Board, Staff and most especially, all the animals, for showing so many of our pets in Suffolk Life. Because of your kindness, many animals have received loving and responsible homes. I am sure that if the animals could speak, their words would be the same as

ours - "Thank You".

Also, would you please thank all the merchants who participated in helping to make many animals - and people too - so happy.

Sincerely,
Ursula Goetz
Executive Director

People to People

Eastern Long Island has happily had in its midst a group of about 400 Irish lads and lassies who have been working this summer in the resort trade throughout the Hamptons, filling jobs for which no local kids were available.

They are mostly college students working families. They came here as many visitors to our shores do, to work. Most are holding down two and three jobs during the summer, earning not only their passage, but enough money to fund the balance of their college education back home.

Two of these young girls met tragedy last Monday night. Riding their bikes home from work, they were struck in a hit and run accident. One of the girls died immediately, the other is in serious condition.

The community of Montauk is sick with grief. The girls, among their counterparts, have been known for their spirit, their friendliness and desire to work hard. Although the community can't undo what has been

done, the people of Montauk have established a fund to financially aid the girls and their families, hoping to ease the financial burden of the tragedy.

We believe this effort is worthy of support, particularly coming on the heels of our celebration saluting the Lady of Liberty. This is an ideal opportunity for us, as American citizens, to reach out our hands and open our pocketbooks in a meaningful way.

Many of us are of Irish descent. Our forefathers came here because of the opportunities America offered. These kids came here for the same reason. Why not reach out our hands to help them? The expenses that both families have incurred may well be insurmountable. Our contributions can ease the burden. It will show that American people are generous and still reach out their hands to help those in need of help.

This is a people to people project, won't you join with us today?

And why not?

Keep Politics Out

We would like to thank State Assemblyman Paul Harenberg and his staff, and State Senator Kenneth LaValle and his staff, for their untiring efforts and congratulate them for their success in guiding through the Long Island Power Authority bill that enables Long Islanders to set up an independent, publicly-owned utility to take over the assets of LILCO. With LIPA in place, the threat of Shoreham would be ended, the plant would not open.

This is the first time in recent memory that Long Island legislators have produced something real and meaningful for Long Islanders. While the approved bill is good, some of the amendments forced through in the final hours disturb us, particularly those concerning the timing and the scheduling of elections for

locally-elected, non-partisan people to act as a board of directors.

Under the provisions of the state bill, the governor will not convene a board prior to January 15, 1987. This is the earliest the mechanism can be put into place to start the ball rolling to create a Long Island Power Authority. That may well be too late to achieve the immediate stated purpose of a Long Island Power Authority, the cessation of efforts to put Shoreham on line, and the re-financing of the LILCO debt under advantageous current tax laws.

LILCO has already started an attempt to use the delayed 1987 LIPA implementation date, and an even longer delay in implementing a "used and useful" clarification approved with the LIPA bill, to their advantage. In a recent letter to the

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a LILCO attorney noted: "The only effect of these bills' enactment is to enhance the urgency of completing full power licensing proceedings well before Shoreham becomes potentially vulnerable under either one of them. . . They may, however, commend substantial contraction of the hearing schedule proposed by LILCO on July 1, so as to ensure completion of proceedings in time to forestall potential future jeopardy under the bills." In other words, LILCO is asking its strong ally, the NRC, to hurry matters along so the plant can be approved before these dates come into play.

Under current tax law, a municipally-owned utility can benefit by floating bonds necessary to finance projects prior to when the bonds are actually needed. These bonds, issued as tax free instruments, bear a lesser rate of interest than the interest paid in the commercial markets on taxable issues. The difference between these two rates is called arbitrage. This arbitrage is, in a sense, a profit that can be used to cover the financing and legal costs of the project.

The Suffolk County Legislature was presented last week with a proposal from financiers Smith Barney to create an immediate Suffolk County, or Suffolk-Nassau, public utility to take over LILCO. According to Smith Barney officials, Suffolk County voters, in 1983, approved the creation of a Suffolk County Municipal Electric Agency. Utilizing this voter approved vehicle and operating under the bonding power of the Suffolk County Development Agency, bonds can be floated that would be used to purchase LILCO stock via a tender offer.

The proposal, from a financial perspective, looks doable. It could accomplish the financing before September 1 when changes in the federal tax laws would eliminate the utilization of arbitrage. It could establish, before fall, an independent Suffolk County Power Agency to acquire LILCO and stop Shoreham before the federal government has an opportunity to issue a license, allow the plant to go full power and be contaminated forever more.

The main hitch we see in this proposition is the voter approved law that established the Suffolk County Electric Agency, which called for the board of directors of that agency to come from the ranks of government. The Citizens to Replace LILCO were very careful in developing legislation to keep politics out of the operation of the new municipal utility. We all recognize the board of directors must be made up of the best talent available, but as we have sadly learned time and again, the best talent available seldom comes from the political world. We envisioned the board would be drawn from the corporate, financial and legal worlds, with some members being representative of the consumers here on Long Island.

If the Legislature recognizes the need for qualified people beyond the political circle, and the county executive agrees, and they enact the safeguards which are now in the state bill for the election of board representatives, we might be in-

clined to support the creation of a Suffolk County Power Agency to pursue the same goal the Albany-approved LIPA bill seeks.

Time is of the essence, however. Long Island ratepayers can save hundreds of millions of dollars by financing prior to September 1. This would be reflected in lower rates estimated to result in a 3 to 4 per cent savings on electricity per year over the next 20 years. This is on top of the savings of 7 to 20 per cent, projected by experts, that would result from public ownership of LILCO under the state bill.

Time is also critical in stopping Shoreham from going on line. The administration and the NRC appear to be hellbent and determined to license Shoreham at any cost. The NRC is blatantly ignoring crucial factors involved with the evacuation issue in current hearings; appears to be bending over backwards in granting all requests by LILCO, and is even speeding up the hearings at LILCO's request, in a very obvious effort to rush toward approval of a full power license.

Because of the NRC's rush toward licensing Shoreham regardless of the safety factors, and the September 1 deadline for tax law changes, we are being rushed into acceptance of this mammoth undertaking.

The State Legislature has approved the concept, and the creation, of the Long Island Power Authority. The financial mechanism through which this project would be funded is very similar to that which is being proposed by Smith Barney. The only real difference is the structure of the board of those who would be charged with the transition and the operation of the system.

Only a fool would accept the county executive or the county legislature as the board of directors of such a massive undertaking. We think most of our elected officials would agree that they do not have the expertise or the ability to keep politics out of the boardroom. We must have the most qualified people available from business, industry and the financial world on the initial board, and future board members who would be elected by the ratepayers to manage this agency. A clear statement from the county executive and similar statements from the legislators that they agree and would carry through, would do much to alleviate concern by the public about this proposal.

We are going to have a public takeover of LILCO whether it comes through a state-appointed board or a local board. There are two mechanisms available to us now, the Long Island Power Authority and the Suffolk County Power Agency. If politics can be kept out of both, both are doable. Under the Suffolk County plan, the end result would be less costly and more timely. Under the state plan, valuable time would be lost and although a savings to ratepayers would range from 7 to 17 percent, we would lose 3 to 4 percent by our procrastination each year for at least 20 years. Furthermore, our procrastination may allow the federal government to circumvent the will of the people by opening Shoreham.

Cont. on page 4

SUFFOLK LIFE

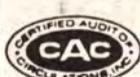
NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Vol. 25 No. 48

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Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

Keep Politics. . .

Cont. from page 3

We are looking forward to County Executive Peter Cohalan and the county legislators, to a man, joining in one voice, agreeing to keep politics out of the creation of this vital

project and, for once in their lives, appointing the best people to fill the positions that will be created.

And why not?

Ham Hock, Not Bacon

Long Islanders said to the New York State senatorial delegation, "Bring home the bacon or don't bother to come home." Our senators closed the 1986 season of the legislature bringing back home ham hocks, not the bacon.

The public power bill they delivered is a start, not a finish. The used and useful bill they passed is a mirage rather than a reality. It does nothing to clarify the used and useful provision of New York State law. It is case specific to Shoreham and does not take effect until 1988.

There are grave concerns, from the governor's office right down to the layman, that the principle will be ruled unconstitutional as it is so limited in scope. It does nothing to clarify the issue, which is of equal importance downstate and upstate. Used and useful is a principle of law, upheld by a recent United States Supreme Court ruling, that provides utility regulating boards with the force of law to ensure that a project constructed by a utility is both useable and useful before the cost of the project can be worked into the rate base.

Under Public Service Law, utilities profit from their expenditures. Once a project is built, consumers are charged with the cost of building it, plus a stated profit for the utility that built it. Used and useful prevents utilities from investing in projects that neither benefit or are needed by the captive ratepayer.

It can be argued that LILCO built Shoreham when it was not needed by the consumers and, because it may never get a license, can never be used. If this is so, under used and useful, the stockholders and the equity holders of LILCO would be mandated to assume all the costs of Shoreham. Under the present law, the Public Service Commission has allowed LILCO to collect over a billion dollars from ratepayers during construction of the plant. LILCO is insisting that even if the plant does

not go on line, or it is never able to operate, that the ratepayers pay the full cost of the project. A meaningful state-wide used and useful law would prevent this from happening.

The problem of runaway utilities is not limited to Long Island. State-wide, our neighbors are faced with the same arrogance from their utilities and also need protection. Many upstaters have not yet felt the effects of some of the billion dollar projects their utilities have entered into, but, the day of reckoning is just around the corner and, when it comes, these ratepayers are going to be as upset as Long Islanders.

The governor implored, cajoled and demanded a meaningful state-wide used and useful law. Warren Anderson, majority leader of the Senate, prevailed, and as a result, another year has gone by with the consumer being left naked to the lust and greed of the profit making utilities.

The governor is expected to call the legislature back into session. Presumably it will be to deal with a very few limited matters that had not been resolved. Used and useful on a state-wide basis, implemented now, must be at the top of the agenda. We don't care what the governor has to do, what tricks he has to play. He should keep these legislators in session until they bring to the floor a state-wide used and useful bill for full debate and vote. Without a workable used and useful bill, the governor is all but impotent to control the utilities.

Our Long Island legislators know this. They hope to confuse and con the voters by being able to say we got a used and useful bill for Long Island that pertains to Shoreham

We say to our Long Island senators, you got us a ham hock, when we ordered bacon. Go back to Albany, do your job before you talk to us about being re-elected in November of 1986.

And why not?



GOLF TOURNAMENT--The Suffolk Community College Foundation has begun planning for its 1986 golf tournament to be held at St. George's Country Club in Stony Brook, October 6. Chaired by Dr. Albert Ammerman, former College president, the tournament is the College's largest fund-raising event of the year. Pictured, from left, committee members Edward Merz, president of Suffolk County National Bank; Linda DePonte, Associate Dean of Students; Linda Rocke, professor of physical education; Ernie Mattace, president of the College's Alumni Association; and Peter Agnew, manager of the Ammerman Campus book store. (FULL 352-B)

Letters to the Editor

'Thoughts on Statue of Liberty'

To the Editor:

The enclosed are some thoughts which came to me regarding the "Statue of Liberty."

Should you find them interesting enough and would like to print some in your Letters To the Editor Column please do so. If not just discard in your waste basket.

Yours sincerely,
Herbert M. Shields
Cutchogue

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The official name of the Statue of Liberty, which was a gift to the United States from France, is "Liberty Enlightening the World." It has been a symbol of freedom and opportunity for all who seek them.

Over the years, for unknown reasons, the maintenance of this beautiful statue was neglected. It finally reached the point where something had to be done, if the statue was to be salvaged. We can be grateful the need was recognized and met.

The name, "Liberty Enlightening the World," is most significant. This symbol of freedom stands tall as a reminder of the freedom of which the United States is representative -- freedom embracing civil liberty, political liberty, religious liberty -- all of which are explicitly expressed in our constitution and Bill of Rights.

Liberty is acknowledged in the United States, to be an established right for all. It has been fought for, defended when needed and exercised when necessary. It always has been representative of freedom in the highest sense of human understanding. However, human rationalization can, and too often does, go astray and personal sense (selfish desires) and dishonest objectives create an obscuring of

the basic principles set forth in our Constitution.

The Preamble to the Constitution confirms our firm, unalterable sense of liberty: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America."

A great opportunity exists right now for every citizen of our nation to take a personal inventory of our present state of liberty relative to the liberty we have and the affecting it in our lives. Do we exercise and practice it intelligently? What better time than now -- when we are about to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Statue of Liberty -- for us to reflect on the significance and meaning of the Fourth of July and our consciousness for freedom engenders in our enlightened sense of freedom. Our forefathers envisioned and established a reality? No words express it better than contained in our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The Statue of Liberty has been re-erected. What about the restoration of liberty envisioned by the founders of this great nation to practice an unselfish sense of the right of all, regardless of race, creed, color, religion or political concepts?

We are "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

'Land preservation importance'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Land preservation, contrary to your recent editorial, is not a matter of vested interest but public interest. There is probably no other issue, save Shoreham, that is of such momentous importance. Long Island, particularly eastern Suffolk is developing at an alarming rate. Much of the county is already a nightmare of urban sprawl, traffic jams, and commercial over-kill. Like an insidious poison, it is spreading eastward. Urban sprawl destroys everything in its wake, save what is protected by legislation.

Your example of what has become the Connetquot State Park is an ill-chosen one. This huge park is an oasis of green in a concrete jungle. This area is hell to travel

through during most times. Traffic and pollution, population density are all hallmarks of this region. Thank goodness someone has the foresight to protect some land.

We need men of vision to protect our island at any cost, not individuals who turn selfish motives into whatever means. \$100,000,000 is meager compared to the amount of money the country spends on way costs, social services, water management due to overpopulation & urbanization are made by the country to save our own and future generations.

Shoreham is not the only issue.

Sincerely,
Harry Katz
Wading River

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Voters' Choice on Taxes

In an almost unanimous vote, the Suffolk County Legislature recently voted 16:1 to place on the ballot this coming November a proposed cap on increases of Suffolk County taxes at 4% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. That action gives the voters the final say of either approving or disapproving this measure.

Suffolk County Executive Peter F. Cohalan, although reluctant to go along with the measure, did so after representatives of Suffolk County wrote to him expressing their desire to voice an opinion on this important issue.

The measure is similar to the now famous Proposition 13 that California voters enacted, as did residents of Massachusetts a few years back. The measure stops runaway government. It makes government live within our ability to shoulder government's expenses through our taxes.

When the measure was introduced and first passed by the legislature, we expected that it would face strong opposition from some of the municipal unions and contractors who have benefited from runaway government. We expected that there would be charges made and possibly even some twisting of the truth. We did not expect, however, the famous big lie technique to be instituted by Newsday. The measure had not even had enough time to allow the ink to dry when Newsday came out editorially foreshadowing against it, not based on fact, but based upon either a lack of understanding or an outright deliberate attempt to not tell the truth.

In an editorial last week, Newsday said the measure covered state and federal mandates, which it doesn't. The county's budget is made up of approximately 60% mandated items by the state and federal governments. These mostly deal with social services and health related programs. Approximately 40% of the budget is at the option of the elected officials. The cap only pertains to these options. They cover staffing in the various programs instituted by the lawmakers as add-ons, or options

to those covered by the state constitution that created county governments.

While the mandated items are outside the cap, they have not been the items that have been solely responsible for the runaway cost of government. Every legislator and the county executive is vulnerable to special interest groups demanding their share of the pie. As a result, when budget time arrives, each legislator bargains for his pet projects for his pet people to be included in the budget. When the bargaining is done, the budget is bloated and the taxpayers are forced to fund many projects they do not need and do not want, and that benefit a very limited few. We, as taxpayers, have no opportunity to respond.

Although we may be displeased with the county executive or our legislators, on their votes on a budget, we must weigh the good with the bad. The legislator's willingness to voluntarily place upon themselves a mandatory cap on their spending is commendable. They fully realize that without this control they are like alcoholics at a free bar. They have enacted laws to cut down on drinking abuses, and now they have enacted a law to cut down on the spending abuses. It is up to us as taxpayers to approve this cap or say to them, by disapproving it, "go ahead guys, spend whatever you want even if we cannot afford it."

It's a long time between now and November. If the early indications are anything of what is to come, expect those who have benefitted from a free-spending county government to mount a vicious campaign filled with lies, designed not to educate you but to confuse you.

Proposition 13 and Proposition 2 1/2 in California and Massachusetts worked. The spending of government was capped, taxes were reduced and that is a fact. Shouldn't we do it here in Suffolk also?

And why not?

Brookhaven Town recently imposed a six-month moratorium on building on small lots in an effort to maintain suburban character and discourage increased density in residential communities. While the effort to control that which happens on the many existing smaller lots--which date back to the creation of sub-divisions over the years--is commendable, perhaps, the wrong people may be impacted the most unless the town approaches this problem in a realistic way.

These small lots have, over the years, presented a perfect opportunity for a young married couple seeking to build their first home, or an elderly couple anxious for for an affordable retirement home, to meet their housing goals. Many of these lots are located in already established neighborhoods and are surrounded by smaller homes. Some of this land has been vacant for years, and although someone has been paying the taxes on the property, neighbors usually oppose any construction at all, almost considering the vacant land as their own. In some cases speculators and builders buy up the land in hopes of turning a profit, which is a reasonable expectation.

In many instances these smaller lots offer a solution to the housing crisis facing our young marrieds and older residents. To eliminate the possibility of these lots being developed through regulation is unfair and, we might say, anti-social. The real problem, in our view, is not whether or not they will be developed, but how. In order to resolve that problem, an attitude adjustment

is needed on the part of our regulatory bodies--such as the zoning board of appeals--which control the approvals for setbacks, side and rear yard requirements for the homes proposed for such lots.

In far too many instances, variances have been given which permit overly large homes to be constructed on small plots. In far too many instances permission has been given to permit side and rear yards to be tremendously reduced, putting the new larger home virtually on top of an existing smaller home. Such intrusions on the existing neighborhoods have created much of the opposition to the utilization of the smaller lots.

Unless the town is considering the outright purchase of all the smaller lots within its boundaries, it is going to have to come to grips with a realistic solution to the problem. Banning construction is not the answer. Controlling construction is. Controlling the actions of regulatory bodies that now have free reign to give questionable approvals, permitting overbuilding on smaller parcels, is a key to the solution.

The challenge for the town, during the six-month moratorium, will be to come up with a solution that would make it possible for the construction of housing for those anxiously striving to own their own homes, without imposing a detrimental impact on the neighborhoods which contain the smaller plots. It's time for realistic regulations, based on common sense, to resolve our housing crisis.

And why not?

Bits and Pieces Where Credit is Due

Long Island residents will soon begin to experience the lower costs of hydropower in future bills from the Long Island Lighting Company, but that financial benefit might never have happened if it had not been for Islip Supervisor Michael LoGrande.

Last November, hydropower from the Niagara and St. Lawrence projects became available from the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) because of municipal distribution agencies created in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. The creation of these agencies followed approval of a referendum by Suffolk voters in 1983 authorizing the creation of what has been commonly called "paper agencies." Municipal agencies are eligible for allocations of lower cost hydropower from PASNY.

In May, LoGrande discovered that

although LILCO had been receiving the lower cost hydropower allocation through the Nassau and Suffolk agencies, the savings were not being passed along to the ratepayers.

Two months ago, LoGrande fired off a letter to LILCO Board Chairman William Catacosinos asking that "these savings and all cost-avoidance credits be passed along to residential customers as quickly as possible." LILCO recently announced it would include the credits in bills, the first a retroactive credit of approximately \$6, with credits of about 50 cents per month thereafter.

The LILCO announcement made no mention of LoGrande's efforts to eliminate the overcharge. But we think credit should be given where it is due.

And why not?

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Signing A Blank Check?

By the time this editorial is published, the Suffolk County Legislature and the county executive will probably have created the Consumer Electric Company of Long Island, Inc. for the purpose of attempting to acquire the stock of LILCO.

This effort may seem to be a duplication of the state's creation of the Long Island Power Authority, authorized by a bill Governor Cuomo signed last Friday in Hauppauge, and in many ways it is. But it is also complimentary and can be bridged to the L.I.P.A. in the future.

While the L.I.P.A. and C.E.C. proposals share many similarities, both mandate the closing of Shoreham for example, they differ in one important aspect: time. Under the state law, the creation of L.I.P.A. will not take place until January 15, 1987, raising concerns that the delay would give the Nuclear Regulatory Commission more time to license the plant. The C.E.C. creation would take place immediately. Thus the C.E.C. would close the window of time by starting the ball rolling almost immediately for the LILCO takeover effort.

The Suffolk County Legislature was pressured to act Monday because of proposed changes in the federal tax law which would go into effect on September 1. The current laws allow a not-for-profit municipal corporation to float bonds as tax exempt instruments, and invest the money, until it is needed, at a higher rate than the bonds will bear. This arbitrage is projected to amount to almost \$100,000,000, which is estimated to be sufficient to cover the costs of the first phase of financing the takeover.

While we support, in principle, the creation of the Consumer Electric Company, we have grave reservations about the financial plan that is being proposed. These reservations are based upon the lack of information we have received from Smith Barney, the financial house

that is the architect of the project. The complete financial proposal was to have been delivered to all legislators and other involved individuals last Friday. Prior to that the only information was incomplete--"we're still fleshing out the details," Smith Barney officials said over and over. Frankly, we cannot voice support of a plan for a \$7 billion borrowing scheme that we don't have complete information about, and we're not too happy that our legislators have not insisted on complete financial details before they began voicing their support.

As of Monday morning, the day of the vote, we still have not seen the financial report. We're told the reports were hand delivered to legislators on Saturday, but the legislature's budget office--which provides financial reviews on such matters--never got one. The delayed receipt of the financial details gives little time to ask important questions. Which means that in approving the proposal before fully understanding all financial ramifications, our legislators have signed a huge blank check. Now they must take extreme care in naming the initial four member board which is expected to serve for about one month during the beginning stage. That board will be charged with the responsibility of negotiating and accepting the underwriting agreement. This is crucial, for here is where costs and fees must be spelled out, and the citizens of the county protected.

We have strong reservations about another blank check we have been asked to sign: the creation of the initial four member board, as noted, and, later, an interim board to begin its operations. We are strongly opposed to the involvement of any political individuals in the county public power effort. History has shown what political involvement can cause. Care has been taken in the wording of the legislation in an at-

tempt to prevent this. Without knowing, up front, who the members of the initial boards will be, we have no way of knowing if politics will be involved. That's one blank check we refuse to sign.

Equally important as the initial board is the selection of the second, seven-member board. These members are expected to serve two one-year terms until the election of a full board by the public. This interim board will be responsible for setting the policies, the direction and the future operating procedures of the new operation. Those who serve on this board must be of the highest quality. They should be chosen based on their proven background in administration, law, financing or private utilities. They must be of the best executive calibre. Some must be representatives of the citizenry of Long Island; they should be broad based in their interest and ability to communicate with the residents they will serve.

These appointments must be based on qualifications, not political labels. But already the county executive, and the legislature, which

will pick the board members, are quarreling over how many will be picked by whom. If there was ever a time that politics should be put aside, this is it. Are our public officials capable of doing that? We'll be watching very carefully.

It is unfortunate that the September 1 deadline prevents a full analysis and study of all the ramifications of this proposal. We're not happy that we must trade that off to beat the clock so we can take advantage of the earnings from arbitrage. But it does offer another opportunity to stop Shoreham and put the control of LILCO into the hands of the people, both crucial for the future of Long Island.

With the creation of the C.E.C., the future of Long Island now depends on the credibility of the county executive and the legislature to select the most qualified people as members of the initial boards. With the proper selections, the future of Long Island rests in their hands, and in the hands of the people. May we all be up to the task that lies before us.

And why not?

People Do Have Power

We have often heard people say they are powerless to fight big government and big business. This axiom has less credibility now that Governor Cuomo has signed into law the bill creating the Long Island Power Authority.

The creation of L.I.P.A. came about through the unified efforts of the citizens of Long Island to cut a cancer from their midst, the Long Island Lighting Company. The lighting company, in its quest to open Shoreham, has raised rates for electricity without mercy. Even after they themselves admitted that Shoreham was a bad idea, in fact a mistake, they insisted upon continuing efforts to open this plant. The fact that the plant could be life threatening and pose numerous health problems appears to be of little concern to the profit motives of the corporation.

Many of us came to the conclusion that if you can't fight them, then take them over. The possibility, however, seemed impossible. Yet, a committee was formed, the Citizens to Replace LILCO, and the avenues were explored. Economic studies were professionally prepared that showed, without question, that Shoreham could be closed and that rates would be decreased from 7 to 20 per cent under public ownership. Even with this vital information at hand, most felt that the political structure would not allow a public takeover of such a massive corporation. The facts were brought to the public and tremendous support resulted. Pressure was brought to bear on our assemblymen,

senators and governor, and they responded.

As of January 15, the state will form the Long Island Power Authority. A board of directors will be selected and either the stock in LILCO will be acquired through a tender offer, or the authority will have the power to condemn the assets of the corporation. This saga will go down in history as a prime example of the people having the power to turn both government and big business around, to accomplish what they seek by working together.

The people of Long Island are to be congratulated. The letters, the phone calls, the coupons and the cash donations that they made, made it possible for the people to win. It shows that people do have a voice in a democracy and can control their own destiny and future if organized and unified.

Assemblyman Paul Harenberg and Senator Ken LaValle deserve much of the credit for shepherding the bill through the assembly and the senate. Both men, and their dedicated staffs, worked tirelessly. They were able to mold together non-partisan support in a highly volatile political environment.

The governor is to be congratulated on signing the bill and for giving the leadership and hope to the citizens of Long Island. A public takeover of the Long Island Lighting Company is now within reach. We, the people of Long Island, will control our destiny!

Congratulations, Long Island.
And why not?

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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.

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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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