

## State control is needed

The New York State Legislature has just completed this year's budget. It calls for \$1 billion in new taxes.

New York Staters will find themselves paying what the legislature calls "sin taxes."

Did you know it is a sin in New York State to drink, to smoke and to entertain yourself? Crushing taxes have been imposed on smoking products, liquor and many specialized entertainment fees.

Long Island will suffer even worse than New York State. Passage of the budget included an excise tax on commercial fuel, which is estimated to add approximately a half-cent a kilowatt-hour to our cost of electricity.

Long Island was paying 13.5 cents per kilowatt hour. The first LILCO increase is 5.6 percent or roughly three-quarters of a cent per kilowatt hour. With the petroleum tax, it will be another half-cent and LILCO is

due to get another rate increase of five percent.

Between the taxes and the utility rate hikes, we will be paying over 15 percent more per kilowatt hour, which must come out of our family's income just this year alone.

The New York State Legislature is worse than the Suffolk County Legislature. The legislators, both the Democratic Assembly and the Republican Senate, have trouble saying no to any expenditure. They have no trouble saying yes to tax hikes. New Yorkers pay 56 percent more for their state government than other states in the nation. Do we get 56 percent better benefits? The answer is a resounding no.

New York State, long-known as the tax capital of the nation, has seen a steady exodus of businesses and residents. Many of our older residents go south, particularly to Florida and North Carolina, where the taxes are very low. If businesses don't jump

that far, they go to Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey and Vermont, where state and local taxes are 50 to 70 percent less than those here in New York and the bureaucratic regulations are not as stifling.

The only sane, reasonable answer left for New Yorkers who want to stay is for the legislature to pass a workable Initiative and Referendum (I & R) law for the state.

Obviously, the time has come where the citizens must be able to take control of the government through a workable mechanism. California, Massachusetts and some 30-odd other states have workable I & R laws that allow the citizens to petition their government for reform through referendum.

Obviously, strong-willed men such as Cuomo can't control the state government. Obviously, our legislators, Republicans and Democrats alike, are impotent. As one assemblyman recently said to me,

"The budget hearings are a dog and pony show. It's foolish of the membership to even be there. The leadership of both houses, with the governor, negotiate the budget. We are basically kept in the dark until the wee hours of the morning when a budget weighing pounds and pounds, containing thousands of pages for expenditures on hundreds of thousands of items, is thrown in front of us. It's take it or leave it. The leadership of both houses have their majority in their hip pockets. Before the vote is taken, it's counted and the budget is history."

We know of no other sane way for controls to be put on the state government outside of I & R. If this legislature accomplishes nothing more this year than producing a workable I & R mechanism for New York and passing it, it would become known as the most important legislature in the history of the state.

And why not?

## Our right to choose

We believe we live in a democracy. We believe we have a Constitution that allows us to choose the form of government we want.

The Suffolk County Legislature and particularly, Democratic County Executive Patrick Halpin think differently. Several months ago, under the Suffolk County Initiative and Referendum law, citizens from all 10 towns petitioned the legislature for the right to place on the ballot the question for the voters to decide, shall we be governed by an equal representation legislature or a board of supervisors who will vote accord-

ing to the population of their respective towns?

The question has been brought up before, never quite with the interest and support from the man on the street who pays the taxes and businesses which have been strangled by ludicrous rules and regulations.

Using our tax dollars, Halpin has had his county attorney throw up numerous legal roadblocks and challenges against the petition. These have been thrown out of court, even though Halpin's county attorney had gone out and hired a very expensive law firm to oppose the

petition. Interestingly, a partner in the law firm is Stanley Fink, Halpin's mentor and the former majority leader of the state assembly. A payback? Counsel for the petitioners, Martin Ashare, estimates that one afternoon's appearance by this law firm cost the taxpayers in excess of \$5,000.

The question is not whether to abolish the legislature. The question is whether the people are going to be able to use the Initiative and Referendum law so that they may bring to ballot the abolishment question. After the recent victories by Ashare, the Suffolk Legislature will have its turn to allow the question to be put on the ballot.

If the legislature refuses, the petitioners can force the initiative to the ballot by collecting signatures of at least five percent of the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election, if there are no further legal

challenges.

The petitioners are confident that they can collect the signatures if they are allowed to. They believe that the citizens of Suffolk County want the right to choose the form of government they want.

The legislature can ensure that this question goes on this year's ballot by allowing the petition to be placed on the ballot, rather than rejecting it. This would allow for ample time for both sides of the question to mount effective educational campaigns as to the pros and cons of both systems of government. A positive vote by the legislature would demonstrate to the citizens that the legislature does believe in democracy for all and not just democracy for the legislature.

We encourage you to contact your Suffolk legislator today. Ask him or her to put the question directly on the ballot.

And why not?

## Adopt a street

Traveling through Virginia and the Carolinas recently, we saw posted along immaculately kept streets and highways signs that said, "Adopt A Street-Smith Family." "Adopt A Street-Virginia Beach Rotary Club."

We inquired as to the purpose of the signs. We were told, "Our people take pride in our communities." Different individuals, families and organizations adopt a section of a highway or a specific street. In adopting it, they pledge to keep that particular stretch immaculately clean. It be-

comes a thing of pride for them.

Some individually monitor the streets and highways on a daily basis, picking up, cleaning up. Others pay for the clean-up. Either way, the street or section of highway is kept clean and those responsible for it are given the recognition. Not a bad program, one worth emulating.

Last spring, when we returned from Hawaii we editorialized on how they use people who are convicted of littering or of other non-violent of-

Cont. on page 6

## No saltwater fishing license

There are many of us who fish on a regular basis. We are out there in the bay, the sound and the ocean on a weekly basis. When the fish are running, we have been known to be out there when we shouldn't be.

There are thousands of others, however, who are incidental fishermen. They go out on an occasional Sunday afternoon or an occasional evening.

Under state Senator Owen Johnson's bill, all would have to pay a special fishing tax here in New York State to pursue this pastime. Failure to pay this tax and register for a license would place serious, as well as occasional fishermen, in violation of law and subject them to severe penalties.

Why pick on the fishermen? What makes them so special? Fishing is pursued by poor and rich alike. Tackle can range from a simple 69-cent drop line to a multi-thousand

dollar fishing rig. All of which, by the way, has been subject to a 10 percent value added tax imposed by the federal government on fishing and boating components.

Why not impose a tax on golfers, on tennis buffs, on joggers, nature walkers, sandlot baseball players and every other pursuit of happiness and use of free time?

The tax will not be used to improve fishing. It will not be dedicated to building fishing piers and reefs. It will not be used to raise fish stock. It will go into the general treasury and become just another tax for the politicians to squander.

We encourage all who fish or have other leisure time activities to contact their legislator and say "no" to the fishing tax, no to any recreational taxes that are not one hundred percent user directed.

And why not?



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449 Main Street

## Henry charges...

Cont. from page 2

offered by the district attorney's office (where)...serious misconduct, all in the name of apprehending and convicting lawbreakers, has flourished."

Police Commissioner Daniel P. Guido said it is important to underscore the SIC's declaration that it is not a criminal court or jury and "that it makes no findings of guilt or innocence; that such matters are more appropriately determined in a forum where there is an opportunity for cross examination and other due process safeguards. I accept the stated goal of the commission," he said, "which is to demonstrate the need for reform...and to promote professionalism."

In his remarks to the Rotary Club, Henry explained that the illegal wiretapping

came about because so-called pen registers used to record incoming or outgoing phone numbers were sometimes improperly converted to full-fledged wiretapping equipment by the detectives in question.

According to Guido, "management procedures in the use of pen registers and electronic surveillance have been totally revamped. The current pen register equipment in use by this department is tamperproof and cannot be converted to a wiretap."

Attorney Robert Gottlieb, a candidate for DA who ran unsuccessfully against Henry in 1985, when he called for a complete reorganization of the office, said: "While some elements of the SIC findings have appeared in the press over the past four years, the scope and severity of the full report are absolutely staggering."

## Recyclables...

Cont. from page 2

Department of Environmental Conservation to work with the towns to tackle this problem...Everyone will benefit," said Tony Bullock, East Hampton supervisor.

By working together, Jones believes, the financial risks of setting up and maintaining a recycling program will be reduced.

"Solid waste is an issue that will be with us forever. State law requires recycling efforts throughout Long Island. By developing our own (cooperative) markets, we will not be competing with one another," said Riverhead Supervisor Joseph Janoski, SCSA chairman.

There are more than 1 million Suffolk residents and, according to Jones, the towns will apply to the state-wide management plan for grant monies which could amount to \$1 per resident.

"I would like to make a plea to the state and the

Department of Environmental Conservation to work with the towns to tackle this problem...Everyone will benefit," said Tony Bullock, East Hampton supervisor.

"If we can put together a cooperative venture, then the towns and the citizen taxpayers will benefit," said Arthur Pitts, Babylon supervisor.

Mardythe Di Pirro, Southampton supervisor, pointed out, "We are able to work cooperatively and this is a natural extension of what we should be doing."

"Our goal is to provide a clean environment," said Toni Rettaliata, Huntington supervisor.

The SCSA is expected to ask Nassau County to join its cooperative, to further enhance efforts to create a regional approach to solid waste management some time in the future.

*Willmott's and Why-Not's*  
David J. Willmott, Editor

## Adopt a street...

Cont. from page 5

fenses to clean their highways. You can't buy your way out of this system. To use the street vernacular, "You do the deed, you pay the price."

We encouraged our local justice and district courts to adopt this common sense approach here in Suffolk County. This suggestion was ignored; our streets and highways are littered with filth. Isn't it about time Suffolk County started to show some common sense?

And why not?

## Happy Mother's Day

Sunday is a very special day, one set aside to honor our mothers. Sometimes each of us needs to be jolted, and that's a shame.

I had a very special mom, as I am sure many of you have or had as well. We had a great relationship while I was growing up. She filled our home with love. She cared for our every need, although not always would she fulfill our wants and wishes.

I was a good son to her, or at least I thought I was. When I got older I visited with her regularly, never missed a birthday or a Mother's Day.

Now that she is gone and I reflect back, I realize I missed many an opportunity I shouldn't have, not for a formal visit, but just to drop by and say hello. To pick up the phone, just to let her know I cared. Maybe it's

age catching up with me, but I have come to realize how important these incidental opportunities are.

For all of you who still have your mom with you in this life, don't just remember her this Mother's Day. Take the time to make that little extra effort to better communicate with her. As she gets older, give back to her some of the time, love and devotion that she gave so unselfishly to you. Do it while she's with you, while you have the opportunity. Too soon that opportunity is gone, and we are left with regrets that we did not take advantage of every opportunity to let her know how much we cared.

To all mothers everywhere, Happy Mother's Day. We love you.

And why not?

## Message is clear

A record number of school budget votes went down to defeat in voting last week. More are expected to follow as they come up for votes during the month of May.

Many are asking why. The typical reaction is that the voters are angry because the county drastically raised real estate taxes to support the current budget. The problem is taxes. The problem is the schools. Voters are, indeed, angry, they feel betrayed. Betrayed not only by the amount of taxes they are being asked to pay, but because they have come to realize they are not getting their money's worth.

Suffolk County students, whose education costs are among the most expensive in the nation, are achieving no more than are students who are educated for half as much. During the last several years, most districts have had declining enrollments and substantially increased assessed valuation. This should have translated into decreased costs and lower taxes. Instead, superintendents have proposed budgets and programs, and school boards have gone along with them, that have doubled the cost of education per individual student.

The more money the taxpayers allowed themselves to be taxed, the more money superintendents spent. They decreased the ratio of teacher to student from 20:25 to 11:14. They added a multiple of programs that were not necessary for a basic education. They added several new layers of administration and non-teaching positions that they then filled with educators.

The revolt has come. The revolution has started. Some districts will automatically go on austerity, and in other districts the school boards will

arrogantly put the same budget back up for a re-vote. Some boards will see the light and get the message. They will eliminate questionable curriculum. They will consolidate schools that are being under-utilized and close those that are surplus. They will increase class sizes. Some very sharp districts will even cut back on administrative staff, eliminate positions in public and community relations and other positions of questionable value.

Where the voters continue to turn down the budget and the school goes on austerity, it should not only be the kids that are made to suffer. If they take away transportation from the kids, the superintendents should voluntarily give up their cars and credit cards. If they cut out the extra-curricular activities for the students, they should eliminate the conferences and trips for the board, and the expense accounts for the administrators. The list could go on, as the administration has feathered their nest very well.

Every school board must make a conscious effort to cut ten percent out of the 1989-1990 budget. An across the board cut is doable and achievable without putting the onus on any single department or part of the budget. A series of ten percent cutbacks done on a yearly basis could bring the cost of education here on Long Island into the nation's norm over a few short years. This would help to stop our government from forcing people out of their homes and fleeing Long Island.

The anger of the public is very real, it is not going to go away. If school superintendents and boards of education don't realize now that there is a drastic need for economiz-

ing and finding new ways to educate our youth better at less cost, they will find themselves in constant confrontation with their constituents. The better way would be to put aside

the rhetoric of the past and start weeding out the waste and unnecessary programs that their budgets contain.

And why not?

## Now we know

Yesterday, Tuesday, the Suffolk County Legislature was scheduled to vote on a rollback of \$56 million in the county budget. This represents a reduction of only five percent, half of the increase of this year's budget.

Suffolk County is in the midst of the first phase of a tax revolution. It's inconceivable that the Suffolk County Legislature cannot pass this measure unanimously. At the writing of this editorial it seems questionable whether the measure will pass.

Many of the legislators are easily intimidated by the Suffolk County governmental unions. They do not know how to say "no." When the vote is tallied, we will at least know those legislators who voted "no" against the rollback in taxes. We will know which legislators ignored the demands of the public, and put the wishes of the pressure groups above the need of the public. These legislators must go.

This vote is a key vote on the fiscal integrity of the legislature. The five percent rollback is only the start. Tax PAC, the Political Action Committee of the taxpayers, recommended to the legislature that the Suffolk County budget be rolled back ten percent across the board in the 1990 budget.

Tax PAC is demanding that the legislature curb its spending habits,

reduce county spending each year until it comes in compliance with the spending of other counties throughout the nation. As a minimum, the taxpayers want spending reduced in Suffolk County to the levels set by the 1983 spending cap law. They further demand that once the budget is set, it can only be pierced for declared emergencies and would require an unanimous vote by the legislature. They recommend that the cuts be made across the board, equally shared by all, not just people-sensitive areas which impact on the health, safety and welfare of the people.

There are few budgets that are set that do not have a minimum of ten percent fat in them. Prudent management, control of expenditures and a proper auditing of time by employees can achieve these goals without hardship.

It's time for Suffolk County government to become reasonable, responsible and responsive. It's time for legislators to insist on that kind of a government by taking the fiscal action necessary to bring it about. And it's time for the people to continue reminding the politicians that we will watch carefully what they do now to curb spending and cut taxes, and we will remember in November.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### Taxpayer outrage

Dear Editor:

I am another outraged taxpayer. When my husband and I received our new mortgage payment I was so upset I could have screamed so loud, all of L.I. could have heard.

I told my husband I wanted to sell our home of 18 years and get the heck off of L.I. This was supposed to be the place of better living, well, it sure has proven to be the complete opposite. My husband, like everyone else who works, is killing himself, and for what? L.I. has the worst road system, the schools are eating us up alive, and I can go on forever.

Shoreham has been closed, so all the billions of dollars spent on that is down the sewer and it will cost us even more to tear it down or just sit there and be derelict.

In our school systems we have the biggest waste in so many ways, from us the taxpayers, paying for insurance for the employees; why should we? if they need insurance, let them pay for it themselves, schools are closed down with promises of our taxes going down, but so far that is a fallacy, our

children are spoiled rotten as far as busing goes, they don't know what walking is anymore, sports are paid for by us, taxpayers, why? If they want in, they should have to even it by working for it; and another thorn in the side is people who rent apartments and have children in our schools. Why don't they pay school tax? Why should we do it for them? I live in the Town of Smithtown, which consists of Kings Park, Commack, St. James, etc. Here in Kings Park, we have the highest tax increase of all of these places and I can't figure out why.

The frightening thing to myself and my husband is when we hear our two young adult children talking about picking up and going either south or out west so that they can improve themselves and have a better chance to own a home of their own, this is scary because this is our family and we are being pulled apart because of taxes on Long Island, the highest in our country. HELP someone, please.

Barbara Martin  
Kings Park

# "...and our flag was still there..."

By Billy E. Kirby

DAV National Commander

Every time I see our flag, I see the blood of our soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines--blood spilled for freedom yet caught within its blazing field. I see their valiant spirits reflected in its many stars. On Memorial Day, I see in our flag what I can never forget--their sacrifice.

Yet, more than a symbol of their deaths, it stands for their fighting spirit. It is the spirit of men I served with. They are men who didn't come home--a sergeant, a commanding officer, a friend--men whom I'll never forget. It's a fighting spirit so valiant, so unbreakable, it inspires poetry and song.

Now, I'm no poet--but inside, I too, feel the pride which inspires a poet to write a tribute to our fighting men--a poet like Francis Scott Key.

In 1814, Francis Scott Key watched as the hopelessly out-gunned and outnumbered men of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, were bombarded by the British Fleet. The battle raged through the night. It wasn't until the morning sun broke through the mist that he knew our men had survived the vicious attack.

There, caught in the gleam of

dawn's early light--as if to mock the enemy--was the American flag, still flying high and proud over the fort. Francis Scott Key was so inspired, he wrote a poem in tribute to the brave men of Fort McHenry. It's a poem in which he stated:

"...And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave..."

These words are as true today as

## Guest editorial

they were when he wrote them. Thousands of young men and women wear the uniform of our armed forces. They, too, are prepared to defend this country and all that it stands for. And tragically, they, too, have spilled their blood.

A month ago, 47 sailors aboard the Battleship Iowa paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Do not let their sacrifice be for nothing. Help our young to understand that the flag is not just an interesting exhibit in a museum. Help them to see that the power and beauty of our flag extends beyond an abstract idea.

Past or present, those we honor on



Memorial Day purchased freedom. It's important that we mourn them. I know I will. But it's more important that we honor their service and the lessons they taught.

Francis Scott Key understood this, and to make his voice heard, he wrote a poem. It speaks of the

American flag and how it embodies the American spirit.

He wrote a poem that is heard around the world as America's National Anthem. On Memorial Day, let's use that gift to both honor our fallen and to teach those for whom our defenders gave so much.

# End the Shoreham controversy

The Long Island Association has been a strong supporter of the Long Island Lighting Company and its Shoreham nuclear power plant. To our knowledge, the members of the Long Island Association were never asked their opinion. The board of directors has repeatedly determined the association's position without regard to membership views.

Last year, as it became apparent that a deal to close the plant was a fait accompli, the Long Island Association was understood to say, "We don't like the deal but at least it puts an end to this controversy which has ripped this island apart."

For once, we agreed with the Long Island Association. We do not like the governor's deal anymore than the LIA does, but at least the governor's deal closes the plant once and for all. Under the governor's deal we are going to pay for the plant again. We have already paid almost two-thirds of the cost of Shoreham, between the construction while in progress funds and the financial stabilization loans and the prudency penalties that were imposed upon the company.

The cost of electricity would be basically the same whether Shoreham operates or not. The governor has argued that under his scenario the rates would be slightly cheaper. With the plant closed, Long Islanders would have the peace of mind that they will not be subject to

low level releases and will not face the possibility of a catastrophic accident that, according to the federal government, could kill 30,000 people immediately and cause hundreds of thousands of latent cancer deaths. We will not suffer \$670 billion in damages from such an accident. These statistics were predictions made in the Wash 800 study in the event of a "worst case" scenario for Shoreham.

With the plant closed, Long Islanders will not have to worry or someday be forced to attempt to try and get off Long Island in case of an accident.

The Long Island Association has rekindled the feud in its demand that the plant only be mothballed. It is the Long Island Association's feeling that people will forget their fears for their health and someday be receptive to the plant going on line. They have announced plans to litigate before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), opposing the transfer of LILCO's license to the Long Island Power Authority or the New York State Power Authority, the other agency that might be called upon to take over the plant and decommission it.

Mothballing, both from a financial and from a psychological standpoint, is the worst case scenario. Mothballing would be much more expensive than decommissioning, and while the

plant has the capabilities of being reactivated, the fight will go on from both sides. Lawyers will be enriched, residents will not have the peace of mind, and taxes will have to be increased or services cut to fund the legal battles and the cost of doing nothing.

We would have hoped that the Long Island Association would have gotten behind the move to put a permanent end to Shoreham, to support the conversion of the plant to another form of energy. Once the nuclear components are removed, the plant could be converted to a coal or natural gas fueled plant as is being done with the Zimmer plant in Ohio.

In 1983, Governor Cuomo's Shoreham Commission heard extensive testimony from LILCO, the Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Department. Although there were variations in their estimates, it appeared that if LILCO's system was maintained to its highest standards and an

aggressive energy conservation program was instituted, there would be sufficient power available on and to Long Island to avoid brown-outs and black-outs on peak electrical days. We have not noted a change in the projected building patterns on Long Island in the last four years that would give credence to the scare tactics being used by LILCO and the Long Island Association that would lead one to conclude that, after all this time, we should throw caution and safety to the wind and open Shoreham.

If the business community of Long Island has the best interests of this area at heart, it will make its voice heard loud and clear, to put this issue behind us once and for all. If the Long Island Association has any concern about the people of Long Island, it will be a partner in ending this controversial chapter of our history rather than continue its efforts to continue this threat to Long Island's future.

And why not?

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# Jealousy is not a becoming trait

As editor and publisher of Suffolk Life I am proud of my accomplishments both from a journalistic and a business sense. When I started Suffolk Life 29-years-ago, I had no money. During the succeeding three decades I have built a very positive business, but more importantly, I have given back to the community that I serve.

**ING/** I am more than annoyed at jealous competitors taking inaccurate, often libelous potshots at me, at Suffolk Life Newspapers and at my staff.

Two weeks ago, the editor of Pennysaver News made several inaccurate statements in his crude attempt to castrate Suffolk Life's Director of Sales, Victor Prusinowski, for having the audacity to seek the Republican nomination to run for councilman.

Prusinowski had been a councilman in the Town of Riverhead for eight years. Two years ago, he lost reelection. Recently, the Riverhead Republican designating convention nominated him, giving him the largest plurality of votes.

The editor of Pennysaver has crudely tried to infer that I pull Prusinowski's strings. That he is a puppet. Anyone who knows either Prusinowski or me knows this to be a falsehood. Prusinowski is a life-time resident of Riverhead, the son of Polish duck farmers. He has been involved in community activities all of his adult life. As a life-long resident of Riverhead, he has desires and ideas for the community. Some I agree with, some I don't, but he has been and always will be free to pursue his own course. Free of my dictates or wishes.

We believe the editor of Pennysaver took the cheap shot at Prusinowski out of envy of Suffolk Life. As we have grown and come up with new and innovative ideas, Pennysaver has tried to emulate our success. To resort to gutter journalism is sad, particularly in a business that is based upon honesty and ethics.

Not to be outdone by Pennysaver, Troy Gustavson, the publisher of a local weekly, has attempted to discredit my involvement in the establishment of Tax PAC of Suffolk County. He tries to build a scenario involving the terms and conditions of our establishing Suffolk Life headquarters in Riverhead. What he fails to tell is the true story. Although we have told it before, let me set the record straight once more.

From the mid-60's through the mid-80's, Suffolk Life had its primary offices in Westhampton. When Allen Smith was supervisor of Riverhead, he approached me about bringing the plant back to Riverhead. He was looking for growth-oriented businesses that would hire the skilled and the unskilled.

When Supervisor Joseph Janoski was elected, he also approached me. He deplored a derelict building that had been vacant for several years, the former Billy Blake facility. It was an eyesore to the community. He introduced me to the Industrial Development Agency (I.D.A.) director who

laid out a whole host of incentives that were available through the Riverhead Industrial Development Agency (I.D.A.), the Suffolk County I.D.A. and the New York State E.D.A. At the time, similar offers were being made from surrounding towns and from some surrounding states. The building could have been bought under the same terms and PDSA program by anyone, including Smith or Gustavson. All it took was a need, foresight, guts and a willingness to take a risk.

We entered into negotiations with the former owners of the building. After several months we agreed to buy the building. To take advantage of the I.D.A. package, there were numerous conditions that had to be met. The primary purpose was the establishment of jobs within the Town of Riverhead. To this end, the town received what they wanted. Our payroll today is almost three and one-half times what it was when we entered the market. Over \$10 million in payroll has originated in Riverhead, where none existed before. The derelict building has been renovated using as many local contractors as possible. It is a showcase in the newspaper industry. The expenditures made by the employees and the contractors of Suffolk Life in the Town of Riverhead, when

factored in, run into the tens of millions of dollars.

Did we receive a tax advantage? We sure did. The same one that was available to Smith and Gustavson if they had the need and could fill the criteria. The same program has been utilized by hundreds of other businesses on Long Island and has fulfilled its goal of full employment for the region.

Have we rented out part of the space to the county? We sure have. We fulfilled a need that they had, one that no one else could and at a rate that was below the going rate for space on Route 58. Should the county have rented more expensive and less convenient space?

There are a number of other things that Suffolk Life as a company has done for the Town of Riverhead, for the people of Riverhead and for the people of Suffolk County. We regularly open one of the rooms within the building for organizations that need a boardroom, a place to meet. Just last weekend we donated the utilization of all the parking lots to the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce for an antique car show designed to raise funds to fight drugs.

One of the things that we have

been involved in that I am most proud of is the establishment of Suffolk County Tax PAC and its local chapters. We heard loud and clear the message of Suffolk County residents. They could no longer afford to live here, they are being forced out of their homes. They have had to cut back on food and other necessities.

We are sure Mr. Gustavson, Mr. Adams and Pennysaver Publisher Gary Smith heard the same cries. They chose to ignore them. We chose to give up our free time, our business time, to try to work within the system to correct the situation. Now, these three men who call themselves editors and publishers have resorted to taking cheap shots to not only discredit me as the editor and publisher, but our publication, Suffolk Life, and the thousands of hard working honest citizens from the grass roots who are attempting to work within the system to bring tax relief not only for themselves, but for their neighbors and friends.

We say to Mr. Gustavson, Mr. Smith and Mr. Adams, use your energies constructively. Put aside your petty jealousies and join us in finding answers to the number one problem all of our readers are facing, survival here on Long Island.

And why not?

## At the Funny Farm

# Confusion still reigns

The Suffolk County Legislature once again proved itself to be an inept funny farm last week. Order and decorum were not even followed. Speakers who registered early to speak were not allowed to speak when their turn came. The comments of other people, state officials and union leaders, was apparently more imperative than the citizens, who were made third-rate.

A time limit of three minutes is set on each speaker. But Gregory Blass, the presiding officer, allowed Charlie Novo, the president of the Suffolk County Municipal Workers Union some 30 minutes to rant and rave.

A rollback bill, which is a step in the right direction but not nearly enough, was left to linger in committee. They passed a cap bill, but one which permits the legislature to pierce the cap with 14 votes. That bill is meaningless, the current cap, approved by the voters, permits the pierce and it has been done time and time again, causing the escalation in the tax rate. They also passed another cap, with the ability to pierce removed. But they then reversed themselves because of "technical problems."

We do not even vaguely comprehend what world the Suffolk County legislators are living in. The citizens are their bosses. They put them into office and they can and will take them

out. Citizens facing the loss of their homes, citizens not able to buy a home because of oppressive taxation, have been petitioning and appearing before the county legislature for nearly six months. Their message has been clear, they want tax relief.

Taxes can only be reduced if spending is cut first. It does not take a passable law, a cap on spending or taxes, to accomplish what is obvious. The legislature as a whole, the county executive as the chief executive, have to say, "No, we cannot fund anymore programs, anymore personnel, we must tear apart our budget and the financial structure of Suffolk County."

The legislators should be spending their time studying the spending plans and recommending elimination of programs that are not top priority. They should insist that audits be made of the agencies that seek more and more funding each year. Instead, the legislature and the county executive have wasted their valuable time, which we are paying for, in posturing and rhetoric and finger pointing.

Are there no leaders in county government? Are there no men with common sense or decency? Our elected officials should go out into the streets and stop by houses with "For Sale" signs. The residents will be glad to show them their budgets, their bills. They will be glad to point out how

they had methodically planned to financially match income with expenses. They will show them how they planned on surviving, but how unanticipated taxes have forced them to put up the "For Sale" signs on their beloved homes.

Let them go to the young county workers, the young school teachers and the young people throughout Suffolk County who are working two and three jobs trying to get enough money together to buy a home or start a family. Let them see how their life decisions have been interfered with because the young cannot afford the oppressive taxes anymore than the old. Then they may go back to the legislature and pass bills that cap taxes and cannot be pierced. Then they may seriously take a scalpel to the county budget and make the painful decisions to cut out the bureaucracy, the fat, the waste and the duplication.

Failure to act responsibly is tantamount to accepting defeat in November. Rhetoric, conning and a refusal to address the spendthrift ways of the past will not be a sufficient platform to win re-election.

The legislature must make meaningful reductions in the cost of government now, for they will not have the opportunity to do it as ex-legislators who have suffered the disgrace of defeat.

And why not?