

# SUFFOLK LIFE

Total Suffolk County Circulation in Excess of 192,000 Weekly  
Vol. 21 No. 3 Suffolk County, N.Y. Twenty-Five Cents

NEWSPAPERS

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Today's Paper:  
TWO SECTIONS  
Section One

## Primary '81

### Our Endorsements

The primary endorsements that follow are Suffolk Life's estimations of the candidates whom we believe will best represent their parties in the general election in November. These may not be the endorsements we will make for the general election, as we have not interviewed their opposing candidates, nor will those endorsements be made on the same grounds as these.

In making these primary endorsements, the Suffolk Life editorial board first tried to ascertain whether candidates are philosophically qualified to run under the banner of the party whose nomination they seek; second, whether he or she would be a worthy, viable candidate; third, whether they have the basic ethics, morals and understanding of integrity to represent the people; fourth was the general qualifications of the candidates and how they stacked up against their opposition.

Primaries are new to Republicans here in Suffolk County. Prior to Peter Cohalan's challenge to the organization, primaries were a no-no to the GOP. The old guard Republican machine was so well entrenched that it was considered invincible. Because Suffolk's overwhelming Republican majority, nomination to office often was certain to be affirmed by the voters. This absolute power led to scandals and corruption.

The new leadership of the Republican party shut down the back rooms, and opened the doors so all who were enrolled would have a say in policy and selection of candidates. In doing so, they put their own leadership and control of the organization on the line, for this policy allows challenges to the candidates the leaders have selected in their wisdom.

As expected, these challenges came in the form of primary races for the nomination of candidates and also in the selection of committeemen. This is healthy; this is good. It allows the rank-and-file registered Republicans to play a greater role in their organization and to have the final say in who can best represent the party.

It is dangerous, though, for it also allows small special-interest groups to regain control of the party through the voting booth.

Certain small groups of people have enriched themselves over the years through the manipulation of politics and government. Although it is wrong, immoral and unethical, technically it is not illegal for political leaders to blatantly sell their influence. It is not a crime for a political leader to take a fee to produce a

desired change of zone. It is not illegal for a political leader to use his influence in the awarding of a contract or to insure "sweetheart" bid specifications to serve specific firms.

Yes, this is the sale of your interest. But there is no law to stop it. There is only ethics of the people who run the party.

There are those who consider such practices perfectly legitimate. The rank and file threw these people out of office when they gave Cohalan his mandate to clean up the county and his party. Those that were thrown out missed the money and the power that was once their's. They want to come back and return to the old ways of doing business. They are backing insurgents in hopes of regaining this power.

We hope all registered Republicans take a careful look at each of the candidates and carefully examine who is backing them and for what reasons. These candidates must shoulder the burden of their backers as they face the public in the November election. The voters throughout the county have spoken loud and clear: they want honest government, and they have rejected those who have abused it before.

We encourage all registered Republican voters as well as those Democrats and Conservatives who have an opportunity to do so, to vote in this year's primary.

And why not?

### County Court Judge

Joel Lefkowitz



Both the regular nominee of the Republican party, Joel Lefkowitz, and his opponent, insurgent Kenneth Rohl, have been found qualified by the Suffolk County Bar Association and the Suffolk County Criminal Bar Association.

Cont. on page 3



LATE SUMMER HARVEST

Photo by Jeff Sievers

### Commuters protest new schedule

## Pell to seek meeting with LIRR on cuts

By JEFF SIEVERS

Southold - In anticipation of a plea for help from several riders of the Long Island Rail Road, Supervisor William Pell announced last week that he would seek a meeting with members of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Board of Trustees to discuss service cutbacks on the North Fork.

Pell made the announcement during the August 25 town board meeting, which was attended by about a dozen of the line's regular commuters.

The railroad has announced plans to reduce the service on its "road'n' rail" service, effective September 4. While LIRR officials claim that the cutbacks are offset by the addition of two daily direct rail links with the city, commuters on the line say they will be greatly inconvenienced by the schedule changes.

Robert Lehmann of Cutchogue, who rides the bus daily to the Babylon station, addressed the board on behalf of the

North Fork ridership, which, he says will be hurt by the schedule changes. Lehmann told the board that his group has presented the LIRR with a petition signed by 150 regular users of the bus service.

He told the board that railroad officials had tried to discredit the petition, saying that only "four or five" of the signers come from the area served by the line. Lehmann has challenged the LIRR to publish the petition as presented, together with the towns of those who signed it, and to question

the line's drivers about ridership. Lehmann assured the board that every signature was gathered right on the bus.

LIRR spokesman Robert Slovak last week said that the 150 name petition differed with ridership surveys taken in the past year. Regular ridership, he said, was shown by the surveys to be lower, prompting the reduction in bus service as a cost-saving measure. Lehmann also told the board that in two years of riding the line, he has only once seen evidence of a ridership

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### Inside

## Citizen input plan fails in Southold

## Anniversary prize winners chosen



# Our Endorsements

## County Court Judge: Lefkowitz

Cont. from the cover

Rohl currently is a sitting District Court Judge from Babylon. He comes from private practice and has mostly been involved in criminal law. As District Court Judge, he has not developed either a negative or a positive reputation, since he has only been in office a year and a half.

Lefkowitz is supervisor of Brookhaven Town and was a councilman for six years. Prior to his involvement in government he was a partner in a private law practice. Lefkowitz is known for his intelligence, his passion for details. As supervisor, he has run the town firmly. Faced with an accelerating tax burden, he has produced economies which will result in a reduction in taxes for Brookhaven Town residents. Lefkowitz's biggest strength and asset is his ability to relate to people and approach matters through common sense.

We were disturbed during the campaign and our interview at Rohl's attempt to create an illusion that he was backed by a group of defense and prosecuting attorneys that were in an official group. Only upon close questioning were we able to ascertain that this group did not have any official sanction, but was merely an illusion. This appeared to us to be deceptive.

Rohl claims he is running only because he has been urged to do so because Lefkowitz is not qualified for the seat. However, a careful look at

Lefkowitz's record as an attorney does not support this contention and, in fact, the bar association found him to be qualified. Rohl's "well qualified" rating is one that was given this year to all sitting judges and is not, in our view, the mark of superiority that Rohl would have us believe.

The charge that Lefkowitz is not qualified is nothing more than a smokescreen, although Rohl denies it, for the fact his candidacy is a front for a special interest group of Babylon Town Republicans who wish to discredit Suffolk County Republican Leader Anthony Prudenti and seek his ouster as party chairman.

All Republicans must support Lefkowitz unless they want a return to the leadership of the Republican party under Gilbert Hanse, which resulted in one of the lowest ebbs of the Republican party in Suffolk County.

Qualification for qualification, from a legal standpoint, both candidates have been found qualified by the bar association. This in itself is not an end all in selecting a judge. A judge should first and foremost be qualified by the people. Lefkowitz has presented himself to the people three times for public office and they have affirmed their belief in him.

We believe Lefkowitz will be a master technician of the law, and more important, a fair but strict judge who will be on the side of the people.



Rose Caracappa

## GOP primary County Legislature Fourth District Rose Caracappa

Party. They have profited personally from the political plums they plucked during their earlier involvement, Sorli and his new political friends seem far more interested in winning political power and leadership battles than they do in good government.

His opponents charge that Sorli has done virtually nothing during his time in the Legislature, and a review of his record would indicate there is much truth to that charge. He recently cited as an example of his accomplishments the placing of a turn signal at a very dangerous intersection, where traffic deaths had occurred. The truth is, however, that this fight was carried on by concerned residents who labored for a year and a half for results. "They didn't know who to see or where to go," Sorli said in explaining the delay in correcting the problem. That statement in itself is hardly the mark of an active or visible legislator truly concerned about his district. Sorli has earned a reputation among many legislators as being the legislature's weakest link, one which contributes nothing and simply gets in the way of those trying to do the job.

Robert J. Jones, the challenging Republican, served as clerk of the county legislator for several years and seems knowledgeable about its operation and procedures. He lacks, however, a solid foundation of support and appears destined to be a possible spoiler in this contest.

Rose Caracappa, the Conservative with Republican support, has served as an aide to several county legislators and is highly regarded by those whom she has served. She has the experience to serve in the role, and the dedication to do the job well.

We feel strongly that the residents of the Fourth Legislative District deserve far better representation than they have received from Sorli. His quest for power and his alliance with those who selfishly benefited from political power before they were rejected by the rank and file of Brookhaven Republicans serves self-interest, not public interest.

Rose Caracappa is our choice in the Fourth District. If residents of this district want a legislator who will serve them, she will be their choice as well.

## County Legislature, Second District: John Rosso

### Conservative primary

John Rosso, a registered Republican, has been endorsed by the Brookhaven Conservative party as its candidate. He is being challenged in this primary by Margaret Bell, a registered Conservative and a member of the executive board of the Brookhaven Conservative party.

Normally, when an outsider runs against someone from within the party, we have no problem in endorsing the party regular. In this race, we face a problem.

Margaret Bell is a true Conservative. In fact, she is a pure Conservative. We must agree with her contention that the Brookhaven Conservative party is corrupt. In fact, we question whether there is any valid reason today for the continuation of this organization. The Conservative party was founded on principle. Its purpose was not necessary to win elections but to rid the Republican party of its liberal dominance. It succeeded in this mission, then went the one step beyond: it turned their own party into a political prostitute where its support is bought and sold for patronage and jobs rather than for a candidate's ideological beliefs.

John Rosso, the incumbent legislator, appeared before the organization and its screening committee. He was found qualified to run under the Conservative banner and has received the organizational



John Rosso

designation. Margaret Bell is challenging his qualifications as a Conservative in this primary.

There is no question that Bell is a better Conservative than Rosso. But should she win the Conservative nomination, it would be almost impossible for her to win in the general election. Bell would have a hard time selling herself to the voters at-large, as she did have seeking the Conservative nomination from within. Unquestionably, Rosso is the candidate more likely to win in the general election.

If Conservatives are interested in perpetuating the current Conservative party by backing a winning

candidate, they should go with Rosso. If they are interested in repudiating what the party has become but accept the fact the candidate can't win in the general election, they should go with Bell.

Based on qualifications for the job itself, Rosso is the strongest candidate. He has proven to be a legislator responsive to the needs of the constituents he serves. He has pushed for projects important to the district he represents, and has been visible and available to discuss the problems of his district. That record makes him the best of the two candidates.

USPS 098-300

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and Suffolk County Life  
Newspapers

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

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

North Fork Riverhead Hampton East Mid Hampton Westhampton Moriches	Mastic, Shirley Patchogue Medford Sayville, Oakdale Ronkonkoma Centereach	Selden Coram Rocky Point Port Jefferson Three Village
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Subscription Rate: In Suffolk County \$5.00 per year. Outside Suffolk County \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life: In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year; outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year; newsstand single copy sales; 25¢ per issue.

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## Thursday Is Primary Day

This Thursday, September 10, Republicans throughout Suffolk County, as well as in specific, limited races, and some Conservatives and Democrats registered in their parties will have the opportunity to play a part in selecting the candidates who will be their standard-bearers in the November general election. Primaries are the most basic political function.

Every two years, registered voters have the opportunity to select committeemen, Republicans during odd years, Democrats and Conservatives during even years.

A committeeperson is the closest link between voters and the government which serves them. This is also one of the most neglected areas of our government. Under normal circumstances, political committee members are appointed by the town leaders. They rarely circulate in their districts, except when they have to give a petition signed.

The true and proper function of a committeeperson is to know all voters in his district, seek out their opinions and feelings, transmit these to the leader and the executive committee which then are supposed to formulate these into positions of the party. Most people have never been visited by a committeeperson. This is wrong and has brought upon us the government that we have.

There are approximately 100 committeemanship races throughout the county. We only wish there were a thousand. The hundred being run this year are a huge increase over past years - let us hope it is a trend for it will bear fruit of good government in the end.

Voters also will have an opportunity of selecting who will be their standard-bearer in some races.

In Southampton Town, Martin Lang, the current supervisor is being challenged by an insurgent, Albert Essay. Lang has been a forceful, honest supervisor. His biggest weakness is his abrasive personality. He hasn't minced any words in telling those who he felt wanted to abuse the taxpayers and the citizens where to go. He has gotten into trouble with some restaurateurs and nightclub owners because he insisted they live within the occupancy laws and control their patrons so they would not offend the people, abuse the homes which surround their businesses.

Because of this, Lang has gotten the label from his opponent of being anti-business. From our observation of him over the years, nothing could be further from the truth. He is pro-business, but at the same time, expects business not to look for any special favors. He will not turn his back when they are violating the town's rules and regulations. He fears the consequence would be a horrendous accident, which has happened elsewhere when facilities were overcrowded.

Lang's fight in Southampton Town has become a full-blown war. The organizational councilmen can-

didates are being challenged by an Essay insurgent, and numerous committeemen are as well. We believe the reason for this battle transcends politics and lies in the fact that Southampton Town is on the verge of very rapid development. Whoever gains control in Southampton will determine just how this development will take place. We are backing Lang 100 percent.

In Southold, Democrats have the choice between three former Republicans for two councilmatic seats. Qualifications of the three are good.

The choice was difficult. It was the consensus of the editorial board that Frank Murphy and Marie Johnson would best represent the Democratic party in the November general election. The fight in Brookhaven is not a fight between candidates but between the factions within the Republican party. The faction led by Republican leader Jess Marchese has reformed the party. It's been an enlightenment. Marchese took over the Republican party when it was still reeling from an era of corruption, questionable downzonings and abuses that are still having their effect today. The old guard, which had enriched itself so handsomely, found the doors shut. No longer could they buy and sell rezonings and contracts or receive unwarranted patronage.

The organization, in an open, democratic fashion, sought out, screened and selected candidates it felt had the integrity and the ability to represent the Republican party in the general election. The old guard put up its own slate. It reverted back to dirty tricks, slander and innuendos then had the audacity to say that it was the "New Beginning."

The ballot in Brookhaven is confusing. We hope the voters can figure out which are the organizational candidates and which are the insurgent candidates. For the record, the official candidates of the Republican party are Henrietta Acampora for supervisor, Stanley Allan for town clerk, Eugene Gerrard, Don Zimmer and Tony Losquadro for town council and Rose Caracappa for the fourth legislative district. They are also the candidates our editorial board concludes will best represent the Republicans in the general election. We also supported John Rosso in the Conservative primary against Margaret Bell.

In the only county-wide race, we are supporting Joel Lefkowitz for County Court Judge. His opponent tried to create the impression that Lefkowitz was not qualified, when in fact he had been found qualified by the Suffolk County Bar Association and the Suffolk County Criminal Bar Association. But more important, from our way of looking at it, he has been qualified three times by the people. In general elections for councilman in 1973 and 1977, and supervisor, he was found qualified by the people. In 1977 when Republicans throughout the town and the county

went down to defeat, Lefkowitz led the ticket for town board. He has the qualifications both as a lawyer and as a man who understands people and the problems they face to be an excellent judge.

The endorsements that we have made in these primary elections were not easy. They may not necessarily be those we may make for the November general election. We will continue our election coverage, seeking out the truth and attempting to present through our news columns honest,

## Motor Vehicles Nightmare May Worsen

There are few residents of Suffolk County who have not, at one time or another, run into the bureaucratic nightmare of dealing with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. There are still fewer county residents who will be pleased to learn that it costs them more than \$1 million out of their pockets last year to finance the operation of Motor Vehicle Department offices, which are operated by the county.

The county's budget review committee has recommended that three motor vehicle offices — Riverhead, Medford and Bay Shore — be closed. The reason is pure economics: it cost the county in excess of \$2 million to operate these offices, while it receives less than \$1 million from the state to cover these costs. That means it costs county residents more than \$1 million for the privilege of collecting — for the state — more than \$25 million in motor vehicle fees. And the state won't even cover the cost of collecting those funds!

If these three closings take place, county residents will be inconvenienced beyond belief. They will be forced to travel many, many miles to reach the Hauppauge state-operated office, and when they get there, they will be faced by long lines and delays that stretch the imagination. Consider the problems now experienced at the four offices, and the delays and lines that already exist, and think about how it would be with but one office open! Such conditions can only lead to more and more unlicensed and uninsured vehicles on the roads, which breeds a

unbiased, balanced reports on the races and the candidates as they shape up. We will publish, during October, an extensive set of questionnaires and answers by the candidates which should give you a guide as to their beliefs and their feelings on particular issues.

We hope you who are registered and eligible to vote will do so this Thursday. A vote in a primary is of equal importance as a vote in the general election. Don't miss it. And why not?

whole new set of problems.

The problem can be resolved in one of two ways: the state can operate its own collection system for fees it mandates and benefits from, or it can update the fees returned to the county to cover the escalating costs of maintaining the motor vehicle offices. State officials, of course, would prefer to have the county subsidize the state in collecting these fees. Considering that Suffolk is but one of many counties throughout the state, and that this problem is state-wide, the state treasury benefits from a tidy sum that comes in the back door, but in reality out of the taxpayers' pockets.

The county has initiated a suit to try to resolve this problem through the courts. But there is a better way — a faster way. And that is for our state legislators to bring this matter to a head in the State Legislature, which has the authority to increase the fees to overcome this problem.

Why our legislators have not acted before is beyond us. Why they have allowed the state to steal these dollars from the local taxpayers is a question only they can answer. Why they have not acted to protect the constituents they have the responsibility to serve is a question the public should direct at their state legislators.

County taxpayers should not have to subsidize the collection of state-mandated fees. And yet that is exactly what is happening. It's time our legislators in Albany take the necessary action to correct this injustice.

And why not?

## Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Thank you for the two tickets to "Damn Yankees." We enjoyed the show very much.

Sincerely,  
Evelyn V. Dittmeier  
Manorville

USPS 098-300

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VOL. 21 NO. 4

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Riverhead  
Hampton East  
Mid Hampton  
Westhampton  
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley  
Patchogue  
Medford  
Sayville, Oakdale  
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## The Voters Speak

Last Thursday, September 10, voters went to the polls and selected candidates to represent their parties as standardbearers in the November general election. In a number of districts throughout Suffolk County, Republicans also selected committeemen.

It was virtually impossible, in most races, for voters to vote a straight line. Voters had to know the candidates by name, know what they stood for and then find their names on the ballot. In districts where there was a contested committee seat, there were record-breaking turnouts. This is extremely encouraging as it shows that voters, when given an opportunity, do care and will take the time and effort to choose whom they want as their representative.

Committee positions are probably the most important elected offices in the county. They are the vital link between the people and the government which runs and rules their lives. The founders of our political system were wise in their decision to allow this step in our democratic process to be an elected one.

Unfortunately, over the years, the selection of committeemen has become pro forma. Whomever the town leader put up was normally affirmed on Election Day, not by the voters but by apathy. Voters were not encouraged to turn out or to take part in the primary system. The hand-picked choices of the bosses were elected and re-elected by as few as a half-dozen votes, which usually were those of the co-committeemen or their families.

Up until a decade ago, to the best of anyone's knowledge, there had not

been a countywide Republican primary in Suffolk County's history. Ernest Signorelli, who today is chief surrogate court judge, took on the Republican organization and won. After his success there were a few other challenges. In 1979, Peter Cohalan took on the organization and went on to defeat John Klein. This had led to open selection of candidates in the Republican party.

Primaries in years gone by were a way of life with the Democrats. But not so recently. There are those who are politically astute who have said that the final outcome of the county executive's race might have been different if the Democrats had allowed Pat Vecchio to challenge the organization's candidate, Dr. Martin Feldman, in the 1979 race. Vecchio felt he did not have the blessing of the organization for a primary, and therefore, Feldman won the designation without contest. During the Republican primary he was robbed of his issues and the momentum built by Cohalan in the primary could not be overcome.

In next year's primary, Democrats and Conservatives will have an opportunity to vote on their committeemen. We hope they continue with what the Republicans did this year and have as many committeemen races contested as possible. If the Republicans, Democrats and Conservatives have viable, active, working committeemen, we as citizens will have a good, solid multi-party system of government here in Suffolk. Let's hope that the trend set this year continues and expands.

And why not?

## Reversing The Tide

County Executive Peter Cohalan revealed his proposed budget for 1982 on Monday, September 14. Cohalan today is a worried, concerned man. The budget calls for a reduction of 1,200 county positions. About half of these positions currently are filled; the other half exist on paper.

The cutbacks in Cohalan's budget started at the top. In Cohalan's own office, he started by eliminating executive positions and worked his way down, cutting those who were either unproductive or whose job was a duplication of someone else's in the county, town or state level. Out of the 600 positions scheduled for elimination that are currently filled, approximately 90 are executive or management-type jobs. Some are filled with unqualified political hacks, some are filled by qualified people whose salaries cannot be justified under an austerity situation.

In some areas, such as the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Department of Health, Cohalan has used a meat-axe approach to bring these departments down to size. Where these departments are

duplicating services that are offered either by the state or the towns or other departments, Cohalan eliminated them.

The reason for such wholesale cuts is quite simple. Cohalan ran on a platform of fiscal austerity, promising the voters he would attempt to get the maximum mileage out of every dollar we pay in taxes. Last year, his first budget resulted in a reduction in base real estate taxes of 25 cents per \$1,000 of real property assessment. This year's budget, even with these unheard-of cuts, calls for an increase of 54 cents per \$1,000.

As Cohalan presented his budget, the reason became painfully clear. Programs the county had no discretion over, mandated by New York State and the federal government, have increased unchecked. These mandated increases eat up all the cutbacks plus the increase in the estimated tax for 1982. These mandated programs are in the area of social services, health, welfare and education. The state and federal government sends down mandates to the county and town governments but

do not provide the means or the funding to finance these objectives. Our local governments are left to their own devices to find ways to finance their cost.

Cohalan, on advice from counsel, has also included \$8 million in this year's budget to meet the obligations of a 1976 pledge made by the legislature that guaranteed the financing of the scandal-plagued Southwest Sewer District. The legislature voted 17 to 1 to apply up to one-third of the countywide sales taxes to guarantee the bonds for the sewer district. The day of the reaper has come. The district needs outside assistance to meet its obligations and the holders of the bonds are calling in the legislator's pledge. Ironically, the legislature itself can, and, it is anticipated, will vote no on the application of these funds.

If the legislature does so, the \$8 million Cohalan has budgeted for this purpose can then be freed for other uses. The \$8 million could be used to cut the tax increase from 54 cents per \$1,000 to approximately 25 cents per \$1,000. This would be the prudent thing to do. Unfortunately, the legislature has never been accused of being prudent. What we expect the legislature to attempt is to keep in force the duplication of services scheduled for elimination, keeping those who are politically connected in their jobs.

The legislature is reknowned for giving in to special interest pressure groups. You can bet your sweet bippy that every organized group in the county will be camping on individual legislators' doorsteps and protesting in mass, saying that the services they favor are vital and must be maintained.

Cohalan has attempted to do what the voters elected him for: hold the line on taxes, reduce the size of government, make it responsive to citizens' needs. He can't do it by himself, for the legislature must pass his budget. Only if you, the individual taxpayer, makes your feelings and your wishes known to your individual legislator, will he or she have the courage to act on your behalf. We encourage you to call them. Stop by their offices. Drop them a card, reminding them that the first thing you want is a lid on the cost of government, and the last thing you want is an increase in taxes.

Whether you want an increase and how big it will be could be determined by your own individual participation in this year's budget process. For your convenience, we are printing the names of the legislators, the district each covers, within our circulation area, their addresses and phone numbers. And why not?

1 L.D.: Gregory J. Blass, 11 W. Second St., Riverhead, NY 11901, 727-7200.

2 L.D.: John Rosso Sr., P.O. Box 7, 1154D Montauk Highway, Mastic, NY 11950, 399-0500.

3 L.D.: John J. Foley, 31 Oak St., Patchogue, NY 11772.

4 L.D.: John Sorli, 1165 Route 112, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776, 473-5660.

5 L.D.: Ferdinand Giese, 149 Main St., Setauket, NY 11785, 689-8500.

6 L.D.: Donald Allgrove, 180 E. Main St., Smithtown, NY 11787, 724-4888.

8 L.D.: John Wehrenberg, 4250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Holbrook, NY 11741, 724-3959.

9 L.D.: Joseph Rizzo, 135 W. Main St., East Islip, NY 11730, 581-3621.

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It was with a great deal of pleasure, delight and satisfaction, after eight years of public service, to read your magnificent endorsement of my candidacy for the Office of County Court Judge.

Dave, while in the past I have not received your endorsement and have sometimes not always agreed with all of your editorials, I have respected the independent voice with which you speak. You are truly an advocate of the middle income, overburdened taxpayers and your endorsement should be of significant value in not only the primary, but the general election.

I wish to thank you and the entire editorial board of Suffolk Life for their favorable consideration of my candidacy and again, for the well-documented endorsement of my candidacy.

With warmest personal regards, I remain  
Sincerely,  
Joel L. Lefkowitz  
Setauket

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Thank you so much for the tickets to "Damn Yankees" which I won. I have a story to tell about this. Every year I have wanted to go to Jones Beach and never made it. This year I sent for tickets way in advance for Tuesday, August 25, a night I wouldn't be working. My sister, daughter and friend went and had a great time. When I won the tickets, my daughter-in-law and her mother, who was visiting from Chicago, got to go too on August 26. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Mellas

USPS 098-300

# SUFFOLK LIFE

and Suffolk County Life  
Newspapers

VOL. 21 NO. 5

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

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

North Fork	Mastic, Shirley	Selden
Riverhead	Patchogue	Coram
Hampton East	Medford	Rocky Point
Mid Hampton	Sayville, Oakdale	Port Jefferson
Westhampton	Ronkonkoma	Three Village
Moriches	Centereach	



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

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## Where Are Our State Representatives?

In County Executive Peter Cohalan's budget message, he proposed to close the Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Riverhead, Medford and Bay Shore. This can't be allowed to happen.

The reason for the proposal, however, is quite simple. These state offices, run by the county, are costing Suffolk taxpayers almost \$1.5 million more per year than the state is reimbursing the county for its operations. By law, the state is obligated to pay for the operation of these offices through a portion of the fees collected in performing the transactions of business. This formula is over a decade old. It has not kept up with inflation and, as a result, the fees the county receives are not adequate to cover the cost of operation.

This situation has been known for some time. The Association of County Clerks has petitioned the governor, the Assembly and the Senate for an adjustment of these fees. Gov. Hugh Carey ignored the county clerks' message, as did our assemblymen and our senators.

Our state senators and assemblymen brag about their constituent services, how they take care of their constituents' needs back home. We would like to know where Assemblymen Behan, Hochbrueckner, Bianchi and Harenberg, as well as Senators LaValle and Trunzo, have been in allowing the State of New York to be derelict in its financial obligations to the county. You would think one of the most important aspects of state assemblymen or senators' jobs is to look out for the financial interests of their con-

stituents in their dealings with the state.

We well remember Senator LaValle criticizing local governments for not cutting their spending. LaValle pointed to statistics and charts showing the inordinate growth of local governments while the state allegedly was maintaining a static budget. We questioned LaValle, as we did the other assemblymen and senators about these allegations. They all maintained that the state was meeting its obligations and was not imposing any current mandates without funding. Now we see firsthand that this was nothing more than rhetoric.

If the motor vehicle offices in Suffolk are closed, our assemblymen and senators must take the full responsibility. If was their abandonment of duty that allowed this situation to come about. Carey is expected to call the legislature back into session this fall. Suburban and rural legislators in both houses, from both sides of the aisle, must make it clear that they will not vote or act on anything until this situation is corrected and the counties are reimbursed as they should be, for what is prescribed under the law.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is one of the most used and needed services provided by the state. We should not stand for their closings because of lack of representation on the state level.

It's bad enough we have a governor who isn't paying attention to Suffolk. We don't need assemblymen and senators doing the same.

And why not?

## Stop The Raid

It seems it doesn't make any difference who the county executive is, John Klein or Peter Cohalan. Both have advocated the raid on Suffolk County's treasury to bail out the scandal-ridden Southwest Sewer District.

During Klein's tenure, the sewer district came into existence and was partially constructed. Because of the lack of oversight by the county executive's office and to political corruption, cost overruns were staggering, and millions of dollars are suspected of having been illegally siphoned off. Klein's defense of the Southwest Sewer District and the intermittent involvement of some of his political godfathers brought about his defeat by Peter Cohalan, the current county executive. Cohalan used the Southwest Sewer District as a prime issue. Cohalan now proposes, in his budget message, that 8 million of Suffolk's taxes be used to honor a dubious pledge made by the county legislature to back up the bonds

issued by the district. Cohalan claims his counsel said he must, by law, include this money in his budget. This we can buy. Cohalan also said that the legislature would, and he expects they will vote "no" on this issue, thus making the inclusion in the budget a matter of semantics. Cohalan has additionally proposed that if the legislature votes "no", then taxpayers of Suffolk County should loan the Southwest Sewer District the money needed to back up the district - interest free. Cohalan supports all Suffolk residents taking the financial pressure off those in the district who are obligated to pay.

The issue is the same whether the decision be made by Cohalan or Klein. The Southwest Sewer District is a special use district that will benefit only those in the Southwest Sewer District. The residents of Suffolk County did not have an opportunity to vote on its creation. Only those people in the Southwest Sewer District did. There was no question that they were

misled by the former county executive and those who advocated the project. There is also no question that the district was created out of need, not the need of district residents but the need of the politicians for a huge pork barrel to enrich themselves and those who contributed to the political machine they represented.

The burden on the residents and the property owners in the Southwest

Sewer District is staggering. They deserve and need relief but it is not right, not fair and not legal for this relief to be mandated on all residents of Suffolk County. Cohalan must look to the state or the federal government for help. He does not have a right to expect other residents of Suffolk County, who also are suffering from a huge burden of taxes, to pull this district out of a hole. And why not?

## Ambulance Companies Need Community Support

**NEWS ITEM:** "Due to a lack of funds, the Ambulance Committee of the Moriches, Inc. has found it necessary to curtail non-emergency services, according to Committee President James Henderson. . ."

It was bound to happen. The warning signs have been there for some time and ambulance company officials have cautioned that unless the financial picture of many ambulance companies begins to brighten with increased donations, reduced service will be the result.

The Moriches Ambulance cuts are of a non-emergency nature, relating to transportation service. They apply only to those in the communities the company serves who have not donated, and thus do not have an ambulance service card. The donation asked for the card is but \$10 a year.

Ambulance service is one of the most vital that can be offered to a community and its residents. When an accident, or an illness or heart attack strikes, minutes count. Without the immediate response of

trained emergency technicians, life hangs in the balance. Volunteers give of their time, both in emergency service and in numerous hours of training, without any financial reimbursement. All they ask is your support of the ambulance operation.

How much is the life of a loved one worth? Certainly \$10 a year. If everyone in a community served by a volunteer ambulance company donated that amount, these dedicated volunteers could stop worrying about raising enough money to keep the service alive, and spend more time on keeping you and your loved ones alive when an emergency hits.

Most times people simply forget to send in their donation. If you are one of those people, why not do it now, this very minute. Consider the alternative: more news items about reduced service. Or, and this could very well be next, a story about the death of an ambulance company.

The choice is yours. From where we sit, however, there is but one logical choice.

And why not?

## What's LILCO Doing To You?

Assembly Minority Leader James Emery has heard your cries of anguish. He's created an Assembly Republican Task Force on Long Island's utility rates. The task force is chaired by Assemblyman John Behan and it will hold a public hearing on Friday, September 25 at 10 a.m. at the County Center in Riverhead.

The purpose of the task force is to find a way of controlling the Long Island Lighting Company's inflationary, skyrocketing utility rates. What the task force will attempt to find out is if the Public Service

Commission is "protecting the Long Island consumers."

Speaking as witnesses will be Karen Burstein, chairwoman of the State Consumer Protection Bureau, Ira Frolick, vice president of LILCO, and Ann Mead, a public service commissioner, amongst others.

We encourage LILCO ratepayers to turn out in droves. The meeting should be informative and it will give the public an opportunity to testify to what LILCO has done to them.

And why not?

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# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## What Are Our Priorities?

We all love the open space feeling created by farms. Most of us recognize the value of keeping farming on Long Island, particularly the East End. It is important to our quality of life, our environment and our economy.

To preserve farmland, the county, under former County Executive John Klein, developed the Farmland Preservation Program. Under this program, the county would acquire the developmental rights to agricultural lands. Once acquired, no further building or development could take place on these lands.

The program has already cost Suffolk County taxpayers millions of dollars. Peter Cohalan, the current County Executive, is supporting a continuation, in fact doubling the current program. Twice during the past two months, a proposition supported by the County Executive has been tabled by the legislature to accomplish this goal.

During this time span, Cohalan presented his budget for the coming year. It calls for the elimination of 1200 positions, 600 of which are currently unfilled. The other 600 employees will face layoffs or termination. The budget also calls for an increase in the county's real estate tax of 48 cents per thousand. Cohalan included in the budget \$8 million for the South West Sewer District, as he was required to by law. The legislature is expected to knock out this item. If it does, the county tax

rate would be brought down by about 25 cents, bringing us back to the 1980 tax levy.

Taking Cohalan at his word that the county's financial position is perilous, luxuries as well as some necessities must be cut. The Farmland program is one of these. We agree with Cohalan that the number one priority of all governmental officials is to reduce taxes, or at least hold the line. This should take precedent over preservation of agricultural lands.

These lands can be preserved through other methods which do not require taxpayer support. Lands can be preserved for evermore in agricultural use by granting the land owners cluster zoning privileges. Under this concept, for example, land that is zoned for 100 separate units on a 100 acre parcel could be negotiated to allow 100 units on 10 acres, with the other 90 acres preserved for agricultural use. The landowner has his investment protected, as is the greater portion of the agricultural lands.

There are numerous other ways to preserve farmland which should be considered seriously at this time. Cohalan should drop his plans for increasing the acreage under the Farmland Preservation Program. If he doesn't, the legislature should turn down his request in keeping with the austere posture he has recommended for the county.

And why not?

moving divisions or plants to other parts of the country. There wouldn't be anything the individual employee, the management of Grumman or our governmental officials could do about it. Notices would be sent out. The decision would be finite.

Long Island has been a healthy environment for Grumman to grow and prosper in. During World War II, Long Island provided Grumman with the labor needed to turn out hundreds of planes that helped win the war. In the 50's through the 70's, Long Island has provided the high technology to help Grumman put a working lunar capsule on the moon. Long Islanders today are aiding Grumman in building the F-14, considered one of the finest military aircrafts ever devised. Grumman here on Long Island also is involved in a host of other corporations, ranging from education to high technological energy.

Over 20,000 Long Islanders call Grumman their employer. Grumman has been good to their employees and their employees have been good for Grumman. They have formed a partnership that is the economic backbone of Long Island's economy, one we can ill afford to lose.

For stockholders there is the temptation to accept LTV's bid of \$45 a share. It means a quick \$20 per share increase in value. Before they do, we hope they will consider the ramifications of this take-over. A quick profit today often is not what it appears to be. Individual Long Islander's quick profits could lead to massive unemployment, relocations and a crippled economy that would effect everyone from the dishwasher in a diner to the president of a bank.

Grumman belongs on Long Island and Long Island needs Grumman.

And why not?

## The President In His Skivvies

Where is our national pride?

This past week, a news release came across our desk from Dell Books announcing its intention of publishing the First Family paper doll and cutout book. Here we find the President of the United States in all his glory, stripped down to near nakedness, wearing nothing more than an undershirt and a pair of skivvies. The First Lady's broad smile does nothing to hide her nakedness, as she is in nothing more than her bra and girdle.

Poor taste, camouflaged as humor; crass commercialism, mocking the leader of our country and his wife — you bet it is!

Some people will do anything to make a buck. We are disappointed and dismayed that a leading

publisher such as Dell would lower itself to this degree. Can you imagine the righteous uproar there would be in England if Queen Elizabeth were depicted in her bra and girdle? The publisher would be hung from the nearest gallows.

We allow a lot to happen in this country in an attempt to make our leader appear to be of the common folk, but the line has to be drawn someplace. Depicting our president in his skivvies goes beyond humor, beyond what should be acceptable.

We believe Dell has overstepped the bounds of decency. The company should seriously consider withholding this book from public distribution. Don't you agree?

And why not?

## More Than Money

Long Island was stunned last week to learn that a Texas conglomerate, LTV, had made a bid to buy out Long Island based Grumman.

On first blush, many residents thought, "I wish I had bought Grumman stock yesterday." When news hit Wall Street of the proposed take-over, Grumman stock jumped \$10 a share, an increase of almost a third in its traded value.

Grumman was founded on Long Island almost four decades ago. It currently is Long Island's largest employer with a work force of 28,000. It is one of the few military, industrial complexes in the nation without a union. Grumman, rather than being a cold employer, has created a sense that it is a family where people are promoted and profit from their own individual efforts.

Over 40 percent of the stock in the corporation is owned by Grumman employees. Over 37 percent is held by the employee's pension fund, and its investment program. It is estimated that well over 10 percent of the stock owned by the public is held by individual employees who have seen fit to invest in their employer.

We are delighted that the management of Grumman has chosen to fight this take-over bid. The future of Grumman is too deeply involved in Long Island's future to

have it controlled by a sunbelt conglomerate. There is a slogan that pertains to the nation: "As General Motors goes, so goes the nation." On Long Island, this saying could well be: "As Grumman goes, so goes Long Island."

If LTV is successful in their bid, decisions made in Texas could leave Long Island out in the cold.

People who know nothing about Long Island or its dependency and interrelations with this corporation could arbitrarily decide the cost of doing business on Long Island is too high. We can accomplish better profits by

## Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Regardless of who is elected in the Town of Southampton it can only be hoped they will make some effort to improve the abominable system of only showing the name of one street at most of the intersections.

In many instances when you come to an intersection there is no way of knowing the name of the cross street and one has to ride for blocks before knowing what street or road they are on.

This may be all right for people living in the area but for a stranger it is very exasperating.

William M. Sauter  
Calverton

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me an invitation to see "Damn Yankees."

The evening was a great success and I enjoyed the pre-show wine and cheese party very much. I was pleased to see so many people I knew and especially enjoyed seeing the supervisors and talking with them.

Once again, thank you for a most enjoyable evening.

Sincerely yours,  
William R. Pell III  
Supervisor  
Southold Town

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You were lucky the Coast Guard wasn't so overloaded that it might have taken a lot more than three-and-a-half hours to get to you.

The Coast Guard could use the better part of \$1 billion to update and expand its fleet so it could protect boating and also intercept drug smugglers more effectively.

Former President Carter and his Congress wouldn't give the Coast Guard this money. Do you think President Reagan and his Congress will? And why not?

Sincerely,  
Frederick S. Lightfoot  
Greenport

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Thank you for mentioning my poetry reading at Rogers Memorial Library in Southampton August 26. It went well, and I hope you can attend the next one.

Lawrence Homer  
Southampton

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