



The President's Message

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that our Autumn edition of our Newsletter finds you and your family well. Summer was most welcome despite it's late arrival. Many beautiful bike rides up to Fresh Pond and Makamah Beach added to the fun. Other summer treats included late September days at Callahans Beach where the sun and sultry waters of the sound conspired to bring refreshment and relaxation to local residents. Many are the pleasures we share here in Fort Salonga. Know that our Association has been busy representing your interests while monitoring development in and around the community. Here are a few headlines of which you can read more inside the Newsletter.

New Residents Social- This year's event was well attended as over 25 new families enjoyed the hospitality of Paul and Nikki Naumann on Sunday October 10th. This year we researched the multiple listing service to cull an updated list of new neighbors. Thanks to all who attended. We look forward to your continued involvement.

Bread and Cheese Hollow Road Conditions- This continues to be a frustration. An update appears inside. Residents are requested to call Highway Superintendent Ed Lynch to voice their concerns @ 360-7500.

Square Dance- This was a delightful event. Over 70 residents enjoyed an active evening of old time dancing as the photos within demonstrate. We plan on making this a regular FSA Fall event. A number of directors were involved in putting this event together but special thanks goes to our Entertainment Director, Chris Thomas, for his optimism and coordination efforts.

Down Zoning by Appeal-Our Association's Board continues to champion adherence to one acre zoning and frontage and setback requirements. This commitment is more important than ever as increasingly larger homes are shoehorned onto undersize plots and spiraling land prices produce tremendous pressure on our zoning appeals boards to grant variances. The entire character of our beautiful community is at risk! Each variance granted becomes a precedent for the next application, extending concessions on the prior approval and undermining the unique character of our community. Community participation at ZBA meetings is vital. Please join with your FSA in halting the erosion of property values and quality of life.

Smithtown Historian Brad Harris is to be our featured speaker at our Annual Meeting- All residents are welcome to join us on Thursday November 18th 7:30 PM at Fort Salonga Elementary. Brad will speak on the colorful local history of our community. We will also elect a slate of new directors and officers. In the interest of improving community participation, this meeting has been moved to November. Refreshments will be served. We urge your participation to demonstrate your support and learn about the issues directly affecting you. Also reserve December 19th 3:15 PM for our holiday caroling in coordination with the KPFD to celebrate Santa's arrival at IGA.

Advertisers...Thanks to all of our residents who advertise their products and services in this newsletter. I have never been disappointed by the work they deliver. We thank them for their support and encourage your patronage. Looking forward to seeing you in the weeks to come.

**See you on the road
Paul Graf**

**ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18th**

**HOLIDAY CAROLING
DECEMBER 19th**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FORTSALONGA.ORG

HUNTINGTON PLANNING BOARD LISTENS TO NEIGHBORS CONCERNS

The Huntington Planning Board has approved a five home sub-division on Old Bridge Road across from Coach Hill Lane, called Almar Estates. Many neighbors and the Fort Salonga Association voiced their concerns about various aspects of the sub-division. As a result, the developer worked with the Town Planning Board to accommodate many of the concerns that were raised by the community.

Our organization has always fought hard to preserve the one-acre zoning in Fort Salonga. The original sub-division plan called for lots that were less than one acre. The developer listened to the planning boards recommendation that the street size be reduced to increase the lot sizes to one acre. The length of the proposed cul-de-sac was reduced which increased the lot size. In addition, many neighbors were concerned about the demolition of the historic Pietro Dinella home located on the property. The Mediterranean villa style home, constructed in 1917, has been featured in our historic home series. The original development plan called for the demolition of the home, but as a result of our concern about losing a piece of our history, the developer agreed to move the historic house to one of the lots in the sub-division.



FINE FOR MISDEEDS BENEFITS COMMUNITY

Indian Hills Country Club paid a \$30,000 fine to the Town of Huntington as part of a settlement agreement for the work that they performed inside of the Coastal Erosion Hazard Zone without the proper authorizations. The money from the fine is now being used to fund a coastal erosion study.

On October 15th the Town of Huntington Department of Maritime Services issued a request for proposals to study erosion of the Long Island Sound Shoreline from the Northport Keyspan Power Station to the Huntington/Smithtown Town Line. More than half of the study area of approximately 2.75 miles of shoreline is within the Fort Salonga community.

The study seeks to identify and discuss the historic and current erosion on the beach, bluffs and the immediately affected upland areas and detail the littoral drift and other natural erosion processes that affect the study area. The Town has asked respondents to identify the erosion control structures or devices currently in place. The study will discuss the effects of these erosion control structures and the effect on the beach and upland erosion. The request for Proposals also states “walking access along the beach at the mean high water line is desirable and should be addressed.” The authors of the study should make recommendations for the best erosion control management strategy for the area as a whole.

BREAD AND CHEESE HOLLOW ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

It's been a little under 350 years since legend has it that Richard " Bull" Smith enjoyed a brief repast in the meadow . There he ate a lunch of bread and cheese while pausing from the rigors of his day long trip on the back of a bull around what we now know as Smithtown. Through letters to our Highway Superintendent we continued our pursuit of improvements on this road only to be stalled at every turn.

One bright light in this endeavor has been Suffolk Legislator Lynne Nowick. Her good office provided us with a letter indicating that this road is indeed the responsibility of Smithtown's Highway Department. We are now awaiting a second response from Superintendent Ed Lynch following his initial letter where he essentially indicated that this was a county problem.

It has been years since this road has been repaved. We seek an evaluation of its condition so that it may be scheduled for improvement. It was my hope to report that this has been resolved. However, sadly, it is not. Knowing how this road degrades following a few winter storms your, assistance is sought. If you agree that it is in need of serious attention we encourage you to add your voice to this chorus of concern Call the Highway department at 360-7500. Once you suffer through the 7 point menu the pleasure of speaking to an employee might follow. Patience and perseverance will make this happen.

One good note is that Supervisor Vecchio is now aware of our concerns and will promote efforts to evaluate and prioritize. While we realize competition for funding is tight, it is our hope that certain areas of the road can be evaluated and repaired.

NEW RESIDENT WELCOMING PARTY

Several years ago we began the tradition of welcoming our new residents to the community through a wine and cheese party at a director's home. Our Treasurer, Paul Naumann and his wife Nikki, once again, offered the hospitality of their home. We invited approximately sixty new families to join Paul and the current FSA directors on Sunday, October 10th for an enjoyable afternoon. Over 40 new residents responded and were rewarded with good conversation and an assortment of hors d'oeuvres, a giant hero and a wide selection of wines and beer topped off by delicious cookies. New residents were welcomed by Vice President Dick Costello who shared the goals of our organization and reviewed some of our more recent accomplishments. Each new resident also received a copy of our special 1996 50th anniversary newsletter depicting 300 years of history with stories and photographs tracing the history of Fort Salonga from colonial times.

If you are a new resident and we omitted you, we apologize. Drop us a line and we will include you next year. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Paul and Nikki for their hospitality.

KP PSYCH CENTER PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

In the Friday, October 8, 2004 issue of Newsday, it was reported that the latest potential buyer of the KP Psych Center, Erickson Associates, has withdrawn their proposal. They explained that the high cost of the environmental cleanup, estimated at \$50 to \$60 million dollars, lead to this decision to rescind their \$7.1 million dollar bid for the 350 acre property. In that story, Smithtown Supervisor Pat Vecchio stated that the cleanup cost is clearly too much for private developers, and that NY State should clean up the contamination produced under the State's watch. We understand a meeting was also recently held to explore acquisition of this site by Stony Brook University as a campus extension and local politician Lynn Nowick (13L.D.) has also discussed this as a possibility. We will keep you informed as this ongoing story unfolds.

KINGS PARK ASSOCIATES (PULASKI AND TOWNLINE RD)

There has been a fair amount of talk about the future of this property on the east corner at the intersection of Townline and Pulaski Roads. Our association testified at A ZBA hearing and worked with the Town of Smithtown to ensure that whatever happened to that corner would be better managed. Needless to say the owner of the property solved the issue by offering it for sale.

In June we attended an interesting meeting with potential developers and representatives from the Townline and Kings Park Neighbors Associations. On that evening the guest developer was none other than Home Depot. We listed our concerns which included traffic, and competition from the garbage trucks that visit the Incinerator daily. Fortunately, the Home Depot folks did the math. Realizing that 18 wheel delivery vehicles+ garbage trucks+ shoppers in cars = disaster at the intersection they did not pursue the project.

In speaking with John Zollo, attorney for Kings Park Associates, we learned that the property is currently under contract. The developer intends to pursue a retail type of purpose. What that means no one knows. Since the property is zoned for light industry the town would have to hold hearings to change the current designation to retail. To date the potential owners have not filed an application with the town. We will continue to monitor the developments on this property. It is important to remember that Pulaski Road is a simple country road. While we would embrace a storage facility or other non invasive development, a Costco or similar big box retailer would not be a welcome presence. Please visit the FSA website for postings of upcoming meetings if rezoning becomes the issue.

The Triangle- (25A) We have been in contact with State Assemblyman Andrew Raia about gaining access to beautify the Triangle at the intersection of Fresh Pond and Route25A. We are hoping that his office will be successful in gaining the attention of the State Dept. of Transportation to authorize this effort. One complication to its successful transformation is water. This would require cooperation with the Suffolk County Water Authority. We are looking for a positive resolution so this project can begin in the spring.

FSA Fall Square Dance

The cafeteria of the Fort Salonga Elementary School was positively jumping, as dancers from eight to eighty whirled across the floor, following the instructions called out by Primo Fiore. Mr. Fiore, an amiable, highly experienced, and clear voiced leader started off the evening with a simple circle dance, where all 70 dancers joined hands and pranced to and fro, in and out, and then learned to Allemande left and Do-si-do. He then had the dancers progress to traditional squares of four couples, and introduced the Star whirl. This was followed by Cotton Eyed Joe, the Hokie-Pokie, and the final Piece De Resistance, The Virginia Reel. During the summer months, Mr. Fiore does the calling for free square dances every Thursday night from 8 to 10:30 pm at the Band shell on the Boardwalk at Field 4 of Jones Beach. Parking is free after 5:00 pm. The Band shell is just west of the giant flag pole.



The evening culminated in the awarding of a giant 138 pound pumpkin to whichever of the 70 attendees most closely guessed the pumpkin's weight, which everyone was asked to write down upon entering the hall. The winner was Joe Tortorice, who guessed 134 pounds. Special thanks go to Phil Suriano, Frank Konop, and Dick Costello, who transported the pumpkin in from Richter's Orchard on Pulaski road; and equally to Bob Marketta, Paul Graf, and Dick Costello who later loaded the weighty prize into Mr. Tortorice's SUV.

The aforementioned Richters Orchard, now run by his sons, Lou and Andy, also donated 5 gallons of fresh squeezed cider, in addition to the prize pumpkin. The orchard is located just west of Bread & Cheese Hollow Road on the north side of Pulaski road, and has the freshest crispest just picked apples anyone could wish for.

In addition to the cider, Charlie Reichart, the owner of the Fort Salonga IGA on 25A, donated cases and cases of soft drinks and bottled water, and assorted snacks.

The super successful event was organized by new directors Chris Thomas, Sera Liebowitz, and Ken Kraska, assisted by President Paul Graff. Dick Costello and Paul Mandelik set up chairs and tables, and later put them away with Chris Thomas.

The evening was epitomized by an 80 year old young woman who outlasted several men, and by ex belly dancer Trini Costello, who said it was the best event the FSA has run in the past 6 years. We plan to repeat it next year - do not miss it - you might win a pumpkin, and lose a few years - at least for that night.



MAKEOVER AT KETCHAM FARM

Area residents have noticed the fresh new look at the Ketcham Farm on the corner of Bread and Cheese and Middleville. We can thank the new owners, Hayley and Toby Carlson, who purchased the Farm in July. Since then they have embarked on a major restoration of this historic property to include a tasteful blend of stone work and large plantings of mums.

Our long time residents may remember Bryant Ketcham who farmed the property in the 1950s. It included an upper and lower field directly across on Bread and Cheese where he grew corn and sold to area residents. The FSA also held our early Fair and Pet Shows here. Bryant died in the late fifties when a new tractor he purchased to replace his aging horse overturned while he was pulling down an apple tree. The house and barn date to 1760 and several years ago were designated historic by Huntington, thereby preserving their future as a Fort Salonga landmark. In recent years up to twenty horses were boarded here and riding lessons provided. Hayley, an equestrian, plans on resuming this business in the future but the barn is now reserved for her horses.

Toby hails from Kings Park where, for over 100 years, his family operated Carlsons, a feed and grain establishment that evolved into a stone supply and rock crushing business. Carlson Avenue and Henry Street in Kings Park are named after his family and many of the bricks in the Kings Park Psych Center are from his family's business. Carlson introduced the concept of pre cast cesspool rings, now the standard. Hayley is originally from Centerport and they met at the Northport Baptist Church.

Their landscaping plans were accelerated since they had only two months to ready the property for their outdoor wedding reception planned for September 18th at the farm with 200 invited guests. They never guessed that Hurricane Ivan would also be attending and this caused them a severe case of wedding jitters. Fortunately, Ivan made an early departure to be replaced by a new crisis when the tent delivery truck knocked out the electrical box, requiring an emergency visit by an electrician. After all these obstacles the wedding came off without a hitch.

Hayley and Toby are skilled multitaskers. In addition to doing a major restoration in record time at the Farm and creating an enlarged landscaped riding arena, Toby is kept busy at his rock crushing and supply business on Townline Road. Hayley is attending Adelphi University where she is working towards her degree in speech pathology while interning at Nassau University Medical Center. Graduation is planned for May 2005 at which time they plan another outdoor celebration, hopefully less eventful than their wedding. The Fort Salonga Association welcomes this energetic young couple, bringing an historic family name to their historic home and we wish them continued happiness and success.





HISTORIC HOMES OF FORT SALONGA

We are again featuring an historic section and would like to make this a regular feature. To do so we depend on our residents sharing their stories with the community. Please contact Frank Konop on 261-8976 if you have a story to share with us.

HISTORIC FORT SALONGA HOUSE TOUR

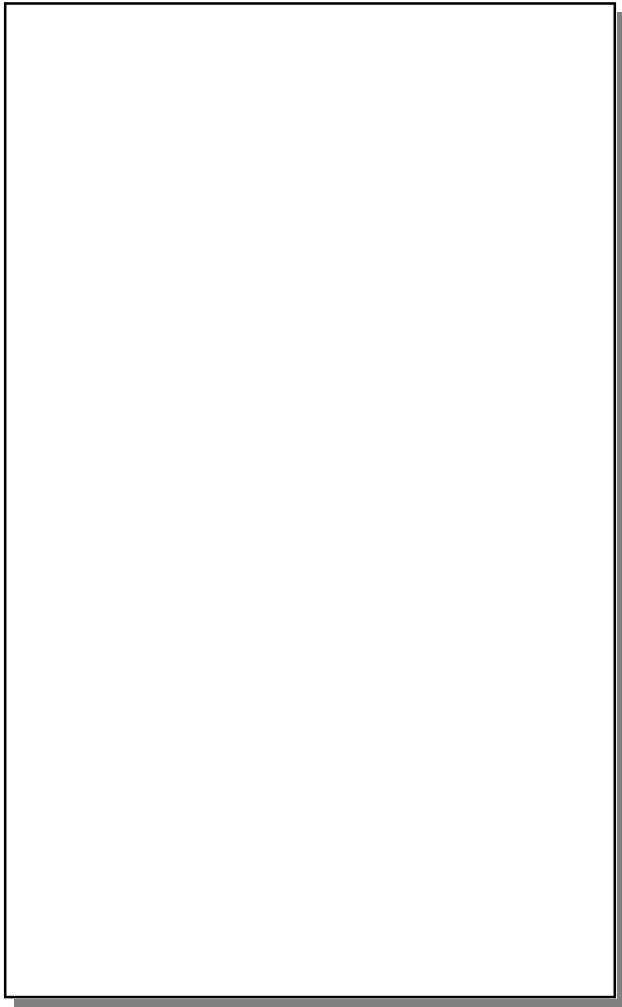
On Sunday October 17th The Kings Park Heritage Museum sponsored a tour of historic Fort Salonga homes with transportation and lunch included. Approximately forty area residents participated in what turned out to be a most enjoyable and fact filled tour. Our buses departed from the RJO building and we began with an interpretative tour of Kings Park historic buildings and life as it existed when the Psychiatric Center property dominated most of the town. The LIRR originally stopped here to bring supplies to St. Johnland which was established in the mid ninetieth century as an orphanage by a Protestant clergyman. As our guides, long time Kings Park residents David Flynn and George Tiernan explained, the naming of Kings Park may derive from the fact that the LIRR president lived near a park in Queens called Kings Park.

Our next stop was the Lyon -Gardiner house on Bread and Cheese, one of our oldest homes dating to the late 1600's and, since 1957, owned by Hal and Mary McCartney who gave us a personal tour of their charming home. Hal, a retired schoolteacher, related how many interesting discoveries awaited them during renovations they undertook. In refinishing the ceiling they discovered the builder used our famous Fort Salonga clay and horsehair as a binding agent to make plaster, resulting in a floor covered in hair and dirt when the ceiling was removed. The lath was hand split oak and hemlock, both then plentiful. We then proceeded to the Milemore House on Bread and Cheese where Nigel Lea and his wife shared the history of their home, dating to 1725. The house boasts a trapdoor in the dining room leading to the basement and provided an early escape route from marauding Indians or hostile British soldiers during the Revolution.

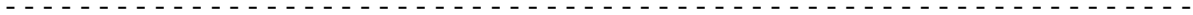
Our next stop was at the most elegant of our Fort Salonga Homes, The former Platt House on Sunken Meadow Road. This magnificent home built in 1754 sits astride seven acres with a panoramic view across the Sunken Meadow wetlands. It combines the elegance of age with modern architectural features. The house was originally part of a several thousand acre estate worked by slaves (one slave house still exists). Sunken Meadow State Park was created by Robert Moses in 1926 by condemning over one thousand acres of the original estate. This house enjoys a rich history. During the Revolution, patriots used the barn to store whaleboats in which they raided British shipping in the Sound. Discovered by the British, Zephaniah Platt was chained to a giant elm tree in the front of the house and then moved to the Jersey, an infamous disease infested prisoner ship in New York harbor. His daughter intervened on his behalf and he was released. Unfortunately, too late. He died in his home several weeks later from smallpox. Descendants later founded Plattsburg, New York.

Our final stop was a tour of the Obidah Smith House on St. Johnland Road (circa 1700) and built by one of the grandsons of the Founder of Smithtown. It is one of the oldest surviving homes in Smithtown and is maintained by the Smithtown Historical Society. Our trip into the past now concluded, we headed back to the RJO building for a delicious hot lunch and a tour of this incredible museum. It captures in period rooms so much of the everyday life in the early days of Kings Park, most of it contributed by area families.

This is the second such tour sponsored by the Heritage Museum and if offered again next year we highly recommend it. The guides were knowledgeable and the homeowners most gracious. Flyers will be available at the Kings Park library branch and at the museum in the RJO building. In the meantime, if you are hungry to learn more about our rich history, pick up a copy of Mr. Flynn's newly published book at the Heritage Museum. It is chock full of old area maps and features many of our historic homes.



Please cut here and return



COME JOIN US!

FORT SALONGA ASSOCIATION 2004 MEMBERSHIP

I wish to join the Fort Salonga Association in preserving the quality of life in our community.
Enclosed is my check for \$10 for 2004 dues.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR OPINION

**Please mail to:
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Fort Salonga Association
P.O. Box 247
Fort Salonga, NY 11768-0247**

Name/Address correction

New resident

I wish to volunteer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2004

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18th
@ 7:30 PM
F.S. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY CAROLING
SUNDAY DECEMBER 19th
3:15 PM @ IGA
KPFD TO CELEBRATE SANTA'S
ARRIVAL

2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.....	Carlton Copp	262-8780
NEWSLETTER ADS.....	Jim Ford	757-5937
SMITHTOWN AFFAIRS.....	Frank Konop	261-8976
HUNTINGTON AFFAIRS.....	Paul Zacher	754-1064
ENVIRONMENT.....	Paul Mandelik	754-2078
MEMBERSHIP.....	Paul Mandelik	754-2078

MEMBERSHIP

For membership information, contact Paul Mandelik at 754-2078 or Tony Geraci at 261-8728

2004 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Paul Graf
VICE PRESIDENT.....Richard Costello
TREASURER.....Paul Naumann
SECRETARY.....Sera Liebowitz

This Newsletter was edited by Fronk Konop, printed by Bill Roller, Data Print Systems, Ronkonkoma. Labels by Paul Langer. All are Fort Salonga residents.

2003 - 2004 DIRECTORS

Carlton Copp	Timber Lane
Bob Desmond	Susan Drive
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Frank Konop	Chestnut Stump
Paul Mandelik	Gull Hill Drive
Bob Marketta	Callahan's Road
Paul Naumann	Ridgewood Lane
Phil Suriano	Fresh Pond Road

NEW 2004 DIRECTORS

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Sera Liebowitz	Woodfield Ave.
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Paul Zacher	Thornton Drive

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The cost is \$40.00 per issue or \$125 in advance for four issues. Up to 1/4 page ad priced @ \$70 per issue or \$250 for four issues. Ads on diskettes must include hard copy. Newsletters Printed: 2300



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To Preserve Fort Salonga

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