



The President's Message

Dear Neighbor,

It has been good to get back on the road for some late winter runs over the past few weeks. I hope that all have survived one of the longest sustained cold spells in recent memory without too much compromise. Fortunately, the Farmers Almanac is calling for an early Spring. I can't wait!

Membership- By now you should have received our appeal to pay your annual dues. In addition, you have the opportunity to take a chance on one of the three raffle prizes. Thanks to the good folks at the Clayton Funeral Home and the IGA for their generous sponsorship of this year's prizes. Please take a few moments to send us a check. As the saying goes ... You've gotta be in it to win it! Lucky tickets will be drawn at our Spring Brunch and you needn't be present to win.

Long Island Railroad Letters- This year we sent letters directly to every resident in an effort to further quantify our opposition to the rail yard project. It is imperative to take a few minutes to add a note to your response so that you can lend your voice to the rising chorus of concern. A curious situation in developing in that while we have garnered the support of every local politician, the Island's major newspaper appears to be siding with the Railroad. Newsday has yet to print any letters in opposition to this project. I have witnessed this personally. I receive calls and emails indicating that letters are "under consideration" only to find that they are never printed. Instead, letters in support of the rail yards are found in this publication. The editors are choosing to insult our position as NIMBYism while I continue to use the local media to promote the Association's perspective. Again, please send your letters of opposition to the FSA post office box in the envelopes provided in our membership mailing. Our leaders need to know that you support the position that the Board has taken. Please do your part!

Roads and Highways - Clearly, the ice melt has left the roads in less than satisfactory shape. Following calls to the Smithtown Highway Department, crews were dispatched to repair sections along Bread and Cheese Hollow and Sunken Meadow Roads. We have sent a letter to both town highway departments seeking an update of their long term plan for maintenance and resurfacing of the roads. Living as we do between two towns it is important that we remain on their radar.

Clean up- Now that the snow has gone the roads are left with much debris. While the towns will send out the sweepers to remove sand, the other garbage is likely to remain. The solution is simple. If every resident took a few minutes to pick up the areas in front of and on either side of their properties the community would look much better. Please do your share.

Upcoming Events- We look forward to seeing you at this year's Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 at 11AM at Callahans Beach. Also, be sure to join us at this year's Spring Brunch on Sunday April 25 at Indian Hills.

**EASTER EGG HUNT
APRIL 3rd @ 11:00 AM**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FORTSALONGA.ORG

**SPRING BRUNCH
APRIL 25th @ 11:30 AM**

FSA SEEKS FAIR AND BALANCED

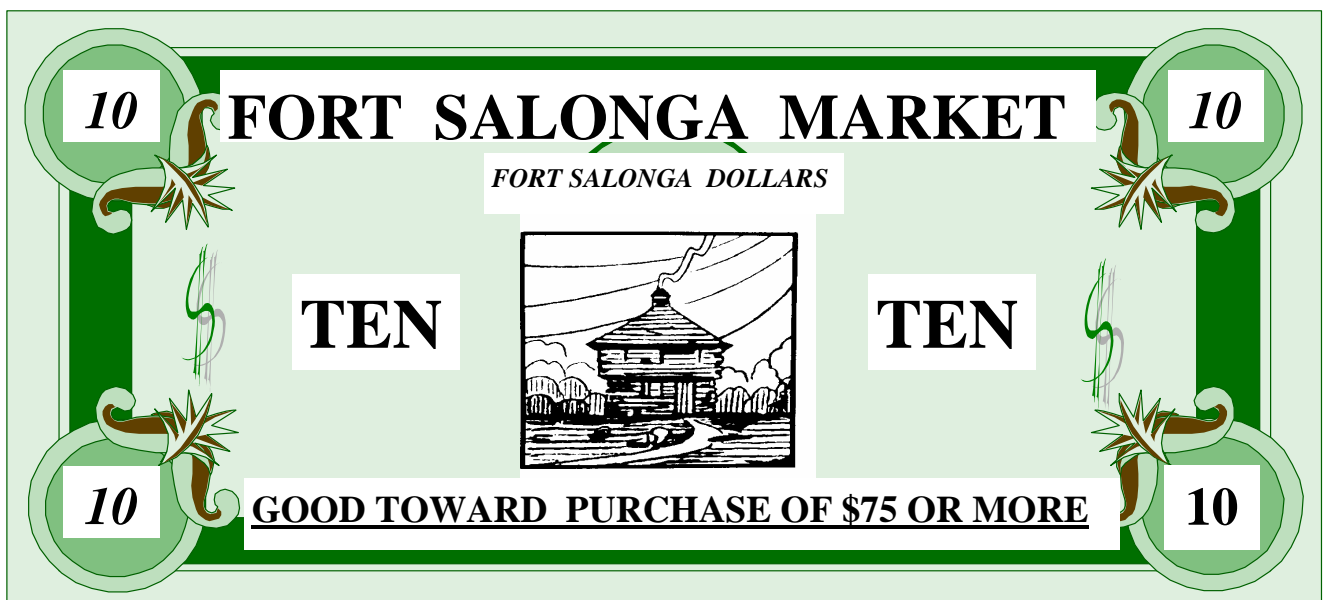
Both Newsday and News 12 Long Island continue to promote a pro rail yard agenda. It has been curious to observe that no "letters to the editor" have been printed in opposition to this project. Most recently the issue of decreasing ridership surfaced on the pages of Newsday. While LIRR President James Dermondy has continually advised us that the reason for the placement of new yards is imperative to meet the needs of increased ridership, he has yet to respond to our requests for disclosure as to actual ridership on the Port Jefferson line. Recently, Newsday and the NY Times printed the statistic that there were 3 million fewer riders in the past year. Here was our response that they refused to print:

Dear Editor :

Finally, some fair and balanced reporting concerning the Long Island Railroad! President James Dermondy continues to promote the need for rail yards to support increased ridership. The truth is there were 3 million fewer passengers in the past year. What the railroad really needs is a master plan to move workers to the city along high speed transportation corridors. Communities should not be compromised by unnecessary industrial sites. Given this decrease, it is no wonder that the LIRR has been unwilling to disclose its ridership data. They need to work with credible town planners to find comprehensive solutions to the Island's transportation needs.

In addition, they failed to print letters complimentary of Supervisor Vecchio and State Senator Flanagan. These gentlemen are among the many leaders who find the folly in this plan. Your association has also been involved in meetings with aides to Senators Schumer and Clinton

I must acknowledge the tireless efforts of Smithtown Board member JoAnn Grey. She has stood with area residents from the start. Lastly, we were most pleased to find that County Legislator Lynn Nowick led the effort to develop a memorializing resolution requesting that the MTA reject all of the Smithtown rail yard locations. This was ratified by a vote of 17-0. Now that's Leadership!



ANNUAL MEETING AT FORT SALONGA SCHOOL

The weather on the evening of December 10, 2003 was miserable, yet forty Fort Salonga residents showed up for our annual meeting. Those who made it were rewarded with an excellent selection of refreshments including exotic Italian cookies, provided by Mike Giancola, the store manager of The IGA Fort Salonga Market. Thanks to IGA and the hospitality again afforded us by the school.

President Paul Graf welcomed the guests and introduced the featured speaker, Leo Polaski, author and historian who presented a fascinating slide show on the 100 year history of the Kings Park Psychiatric Hospital. He answered questions in informative detail about this self contained "city" on our eastern border and covered subjects ranging from the piggery, where all the hospital's bacon was prepared to the graveyard where the patients were buried. Several slides were shown of the miles of underground tunnels whose length exceeds that of all the facility's roads. Copies of Mr. Polaski's \$15.00 book are available at the Kings Park Heritage Museum at 101 Church Street in Kings Park, in the former RJO building.

Frank Konop spoke about the Smithtown Library's expansion plans and urged all Smithtown residents to make their wishes for future library development known in writing to the Library Committee. There is a chance that the Kings Park Branch and the Commack Branch will be closed, replaced by a new large central branch. Recently, the library mailed surveys which area residents should have received. We urge you to complete and return since without community input the library may make consolidation and content decisions not compatible with our wishes.

The newly nominated Officers and Directors were next introduced and unanimously voted into office. They are Sera Liebowitz, Ken Kraska, Chris Thomas and Paul Zacher. A brief bio of each of our new directors appears in this newsletter. Paul Graf and the existing board (as listed on the back of this newsletter) were also unanimously reelected.

Vice President Dick Costello then discussed the situation involving the proposed 16 track LIRR railroad yard at various possible locations in our area. He stressed the importance of Fort Salonga residents writing, emailing or calling to town, county and state politicians to make their opinions known. He provided a list of phone numbers, email and regular mail addresses for this purpose. Director Paul Mandelik then spoke forcefully about the need for community action and circulated a petition to be presented to appropriate political leaders stating opposition to a train yard in our heavily populated area. Paul & Dick are representing the FSA in cooperation with the Town Line Association and its lawyers to oppose placing the train yard anywhere in Huntington or Smithtown.



President Paul Graf and new directors display the new FSA banner

It is our belief that the logical location for a train yard is at or near the end of the line, something the LIRR does not wish to consider because of the cost to electrify the tracks out to Port Jefferson, even though this is their stated long term goal. We strongly encourage residents to return to us the opposition letter recently received as part of our membership mailing. This will be forwarded to the LIRR and our politicians. Paul Graf concluded the meeting by reminding everyone that while the LIRR issue is receiving our full attention we are also working with Town Line Association to continue our opposition to the proposed power plant on Town Line Road.

VISUAL POLLUTION

We are all fully aware of the effects that air, ground, and water pollution have on our everyday lives and the dangers they represent to our future. However, we seem to be less concerned with another form of pollution-Visual Pollution; beer cans, newspapers, fast food wrappers and containers. We see all of these things alongside our roadways everyday.

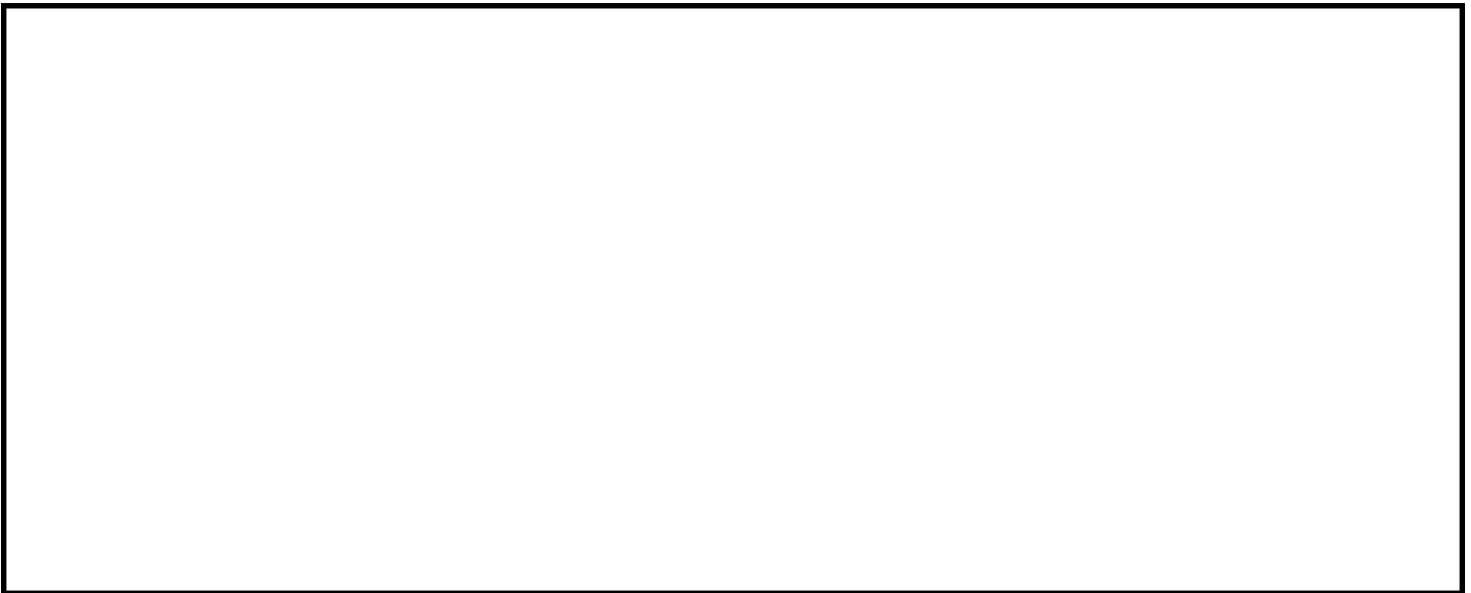
Unfortunately, there will always be a percentage of the population that will litter. It has fallen upon the rest of us to remove this visual pollution. It is just one more thing that we must do in order to prevent the continual erosion of the quality of life that we all want to enjoy. We can all do a little, that when put together, amounts to a lot.

Remember that your property does not end at the foot of your driveway. When you go out, perhaps to get your mail, pick up the few pieces of litter that may be present on your property along the roadway. We all like a good garage sale! When you have one, have the courtesy to remove your signs when the sale is over. Return empty garbage cans so they don't roll around in the street and cause a hazard.

Our Roads and Highways Director Tony Geraci has personally addressed the Smithtown Town Board and has asked them to take the initiative in getting the political parties to voluntarily halt the posting of campaign posters on utility poles in the Town of Smithtown. Perhaps you saw Tony's pictures on the cover of several local newspapers as his timely comments received significant publicity after this form of littering was carried to an extreme during the last election. If a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, then an ordinance should be enacted to halt this practice since, with a major election ahead of us, we can expect our utility poles to be again saturated with campaign posters.

The Fort Salonga Association will continue to monitor and work together with State and Town agencies to ensure that our roadways are litter free, since they too have a responsibility to provide the services needed to accomplish this. The winter has been particularly harsh on our roads causing major washouts and potholes and we are working with the respective highway departments to insure we get our fair share of repaving and pothole repair.

Together we can keep Fort Salonga a beautiful and desirable place to live.



SMITHTOWN AFFAIRS

ZBA Stands Firm

Last year the FSA joined with area residents in opposing an application by Kings Park Redi Mix for a permit to legalize an illegal cement plant on the corner of Pulaski and Townline Road on our southern border. This operation had become an increasing eyesore over the years and had never received town approval. After summonses were issued, they applied for a permit before the ZBA. We joined with area residents to oppose this illegal operation and the negative effect upon our quality of life and property values. The permit was denied unless major remediation efforts were undertaken, including a large buffer and a number of operating restrictions.

Unfortunately, the owners never complied and the current tenant departed. This left us with a site which continued to deteriorate and presented the community with a moonscape of rubble and excavated earth. This past January, the owners again appeared before the ZBA with a request for mitigation of many of the conditions imposed by the town. Again, area residents joined with the FSA to oppose any reductions in the town demands. The ZBA supported us and maintained their prior position. While some change in the mix of trucks used was approved, subject to increased parking spaces, the large buffer we sought was not reduced as the owner requested. In addition all operations must conform to current OSHA regulations. The owner's request for a height of 35 feet for material storage was reduced to 18 feet and rock crushing was limited to 2 weeks to exhaust the existing supply of rocks.

We applaud the ZBA and thank area residents who joined with the FSA in successfully demonstrating that the fifty year partnership between the FSA and area residents continues to succeed in preserving our property values and quality of life.

Home lighting- More Is Not Always Better

Area homeowners are concerned about the increasing use of residential high intensity lighting shining into neighbors' homes and diminishing the rural character of our community as well as being extremely unattractive. Some new residents are evidently accustomed to higher light levels in their prior neighborhoods and feel illuminating everything within range of their homes is a deterrent to crime. The unfortunate downside to this form of visual pollution is an invasion of privacy and diminishment of the very character of our community, which makes it so attractive.

We have had discussions with Smithtown officials about modifications to the town lighting code to address this concern, specifically high intensity lighting that is directed outward towards neighbors. We are optimistic these changes will be implemented and will be discussing similar regulations with Huntington officials.

HOLIDAY CAROLING SURVIVES SNOWSTORM

Once again Mother Nature socked it to us and our annual caroling at The Abiding Presence Church was pre-empted last December by a major snowstorm.

However, after initial disappointment, we were able to recover. We contacted Santa via his sled phone and turned him back.

We regrouped with our keyboarders and song leaders under the able direction of President Paul Graf and rescheduled our event to coincide with Santa's visit to the IGA shopping center the following week. Our entertainment group set up with electricity provided by Spotlight Spirits, hot chocolate donated by the Village Deli and

an almost endless supply of cookies donated by our consistent benefactor, Mike Giancola, manager at the IGA Fort Salonga Market. We provided a melodious accompaniment to the sirens and horns of the entire Kings Park Fire Department as they provided an enthusiastic Santa and Friends show from atop the fire engines. The turnout was spectacular and a good time was had by all, young and old. Hopefully, this December Mother Nature will cooperate and we can resume our caroling tradition in a more subdued atmosphere at Abiding Presence Church.



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the FSA sponsors a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior from both Kings Park and Northport High Schools. This scholarship is for community service both within Fort Salonga and the surrounding communities. As far as we know, it is the only scholarship awarded specifically for community service and is open to any senior residing in Fort Salonga whose family are paid members of the FSA in the current year. We leave selection up to the appropriate selection committees in the schools but do verify residency and paid membership status. We encourage our residents to contact school guidance departments if your child has made a significant contribution over the past several years and you wish to apply.

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS

Ken Kraska

Looking to leave the hustle and bustle of NYC, Ken and his wife Carol moved to Fort Salonga in 1994. They have three children, Kenny Jr. 16, Lee Ann 9 and Brooke 6. Ken has a degree in Public Accounting and is the former CEO of a national securities firm. Having retired from the securities business three years ago, he now directs his efforts to a career in real estate and insurance. In our community, he serves as a trustee board member for the Kings Park Heritage Museum and Fr. John Papallo Lodge, Order Sons of Italy In America. Through his website KingsParkOnline.com, he has become an active member in many of our local civic groups and the Chamber of Commerce.



Sera Liebowitz

Sera and her husband Rick have lived in Fort Salonga since 2002. Sera has a Bachelor of Science degree from the Philadelphia University. Until recently she worked as a product Manager and Northeast Territory Manager in the coated fabrics industry. Sera's hobbies include gardening, illustration, reading and skiing. As an active new director Sera also serves as our new secretary.



Christopher Thomas

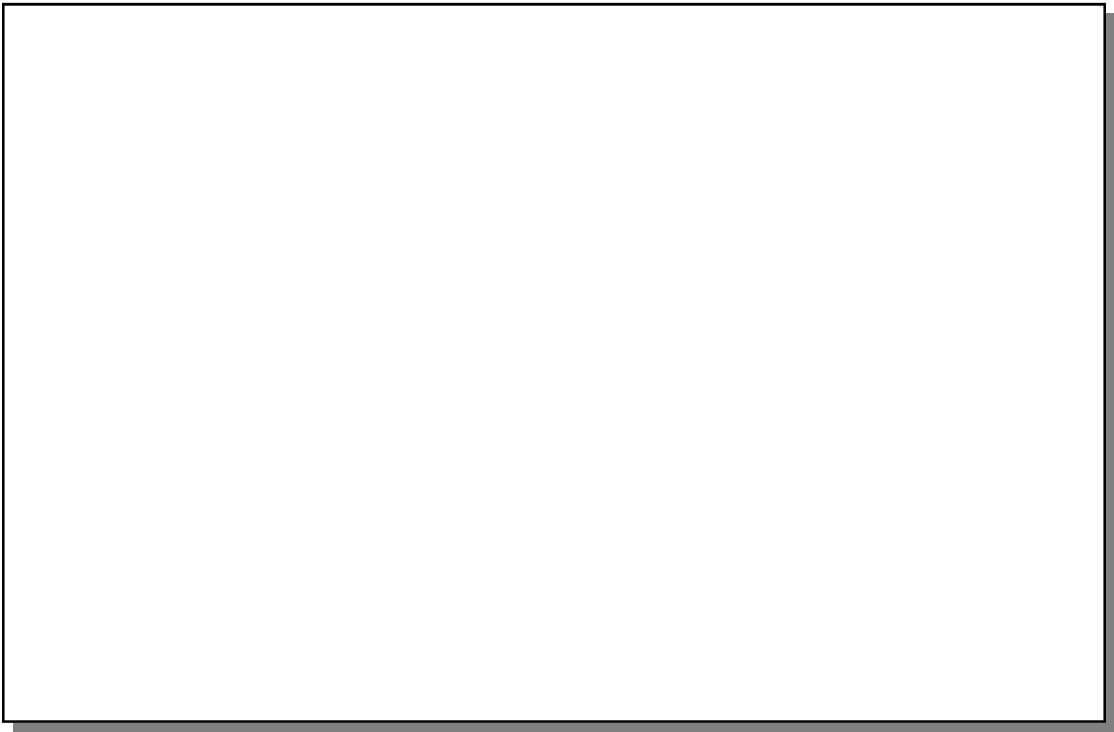
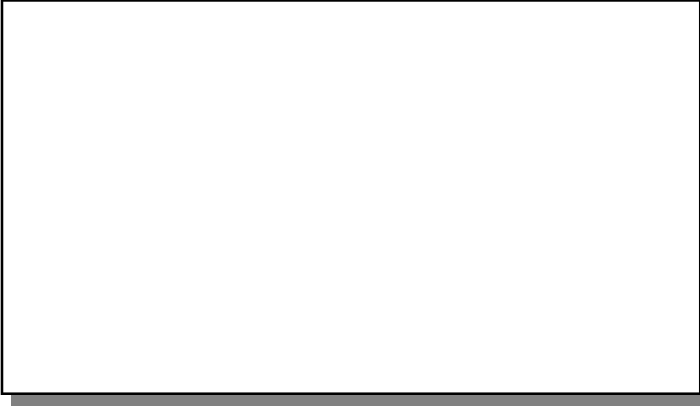
Christopher Thomas resides on the Huntington side of Ft. Salonga. He and his wife Kathy have lived here for four years with their four young children. They were drawn to the area with its open space, wooded rolling hills and beautiful beaches. They are very interested in preserving the qualities of Ft. Salonga that drove them to this unique area on Long Island. Christopher has a background in physical and life sciences, and General Management. He ran a division of a public company on Long Island for several years involved in environmental capital equipment. He is currently Business Development Manager for a leading document imaging systems integrator. Christopher looks forward to serving on the Ft. Salonga Board and helping to plan and coordinate their Activities.



Paul Zacher

As newlyweds Chris and Paul were drawn to Fort Salonga by Its rural character. They joined the Fort Salonga Association shortly after moving here in 1985 and have always enjoyed the informative newsletters but it was only recently that Paul realized the amount of work the officers and directors did to protect and maintain our community. As a Fort Salonga resident he has become extremely concerned with the prospects of the MTA putting a rail maintenance yard in our community and felt the he would be able to help fight this ill informed decision. Chris is a music teacher in the Northport – East Northport school district. Paul is a Certified Public Accountant with an office in Melville. They have two daughters, Kelly, 15 and Jennifer,11.





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relocating



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Resident of Ft. Salonga

You need a Dedicated,
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Who "Listens" to your
Real Estate Needs.

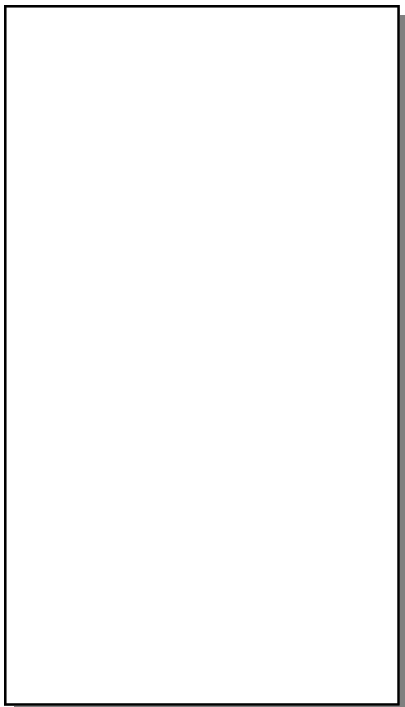
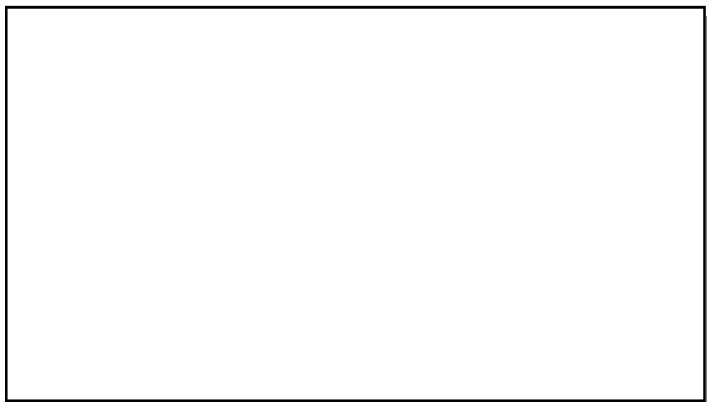


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IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CORRECT ?

If your address is incorrect, please let us know by using the membership tear-off on the back page. On it you will find a place for address corrections. If you prefer to write a note, it helps us if you also include the information from the mailing label that is to be changed or canceled.

Correct labels may not appear immediately as batches of labels are usually printed up to cover a few issues. Your patience is appreciated by the volunteers on your Fort Salonga Association.

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Thank you to all of the residents for taking the time to express your views and concerns about the community. Your pride in Fort Salonga benefits everyone. Thanks again and keep those letters coming.
Fort Salonga Association
PO Box 247
Fort Salonga, NY 11768-0247
Attention: Board Members
Or e-mail us at: fkonop@juno.com

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The Fort Salonga Association invites you to attend its:

Annual Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd @ 11AM (Rain Date Saturday April 10th @ 11AM)

Callahan's Beach - Upper Field

*Guess the number of jellybeans
in the jar.*

(Directions: Route 25A near Soundview Avenue)

Please Join Us

Meet Big Bunny



Bring a picture of spring to enter the raffle for a prize

Questions: Please call Dick Costello
at 269-8940

Fort Salonga Residents only please



Annual Spring Brunch

The annual Fort Salonga Association *SPRING BRUNCH* will be held on Sunday, April 25th. at the elegant Indian Hills Country Club (Fresh Pond Road and Breeze Hill Road) from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This is an ideal opportunity to meet your neighbors and friends and to welcome newcomers to the community.

The complete buffet includes :

Gourmet Omelet Station, Carving Station, Assorted Breakfast foods: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, french toast & home fries. Pasta, mixed vegetables, smoked salmon, bread station, juice bar, coffee and tea. Complimentary Mimosa or Bloody Mary.

Door Prizes

All for only \$ 20.00 per person
{ all inclusive }

Great Food

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 20th

Seating is limited. Reservations strongly recommended Reserve your seat now!

Mail your coupon today. Questions contact: Chris Thomas @ 757-5941 and check our web site

www.fortsalonga.org

Yes I want to attend The Spring Brunch

Please reserve _____ seats at the Fort Salonga Brunch at \$20.00 each. I wish to include my 2004 membership dues at this time @ \$ 10.00. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

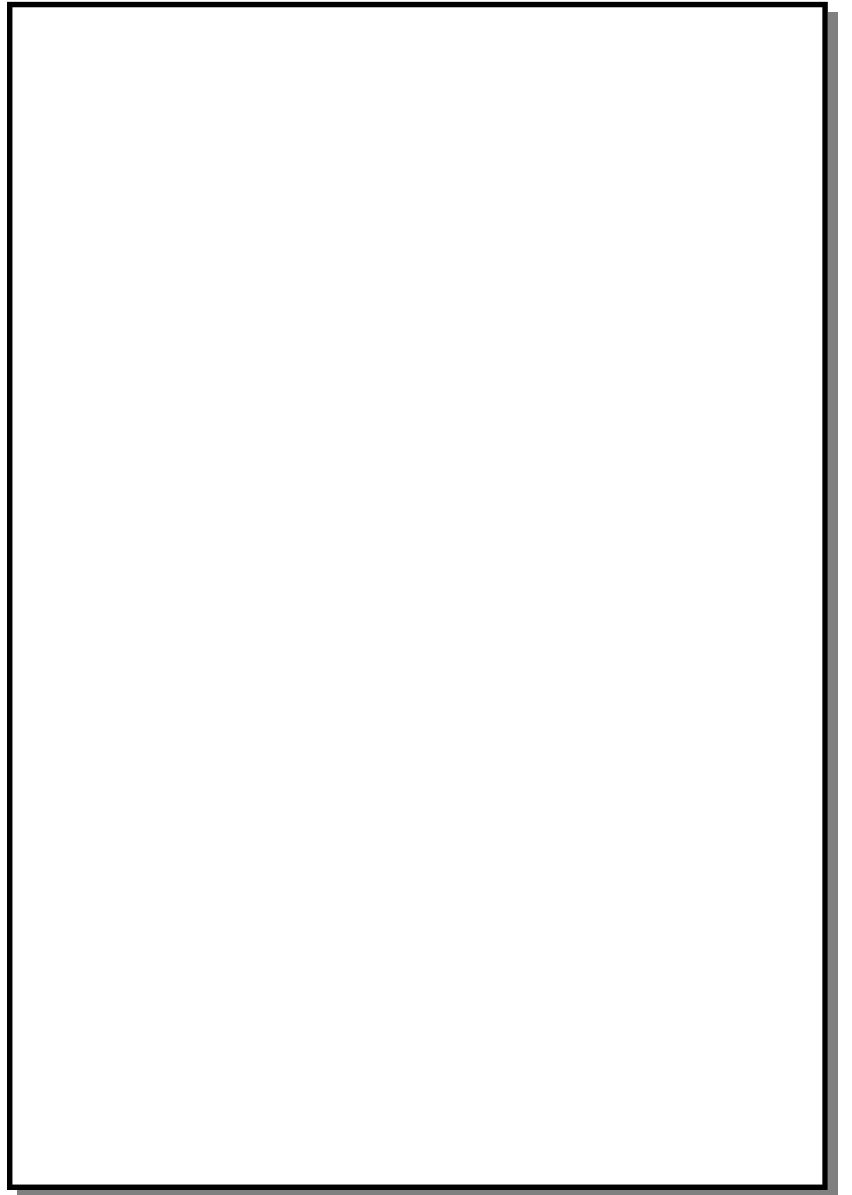
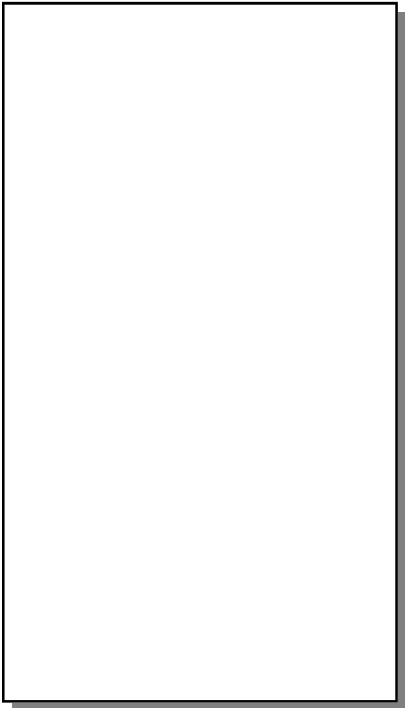
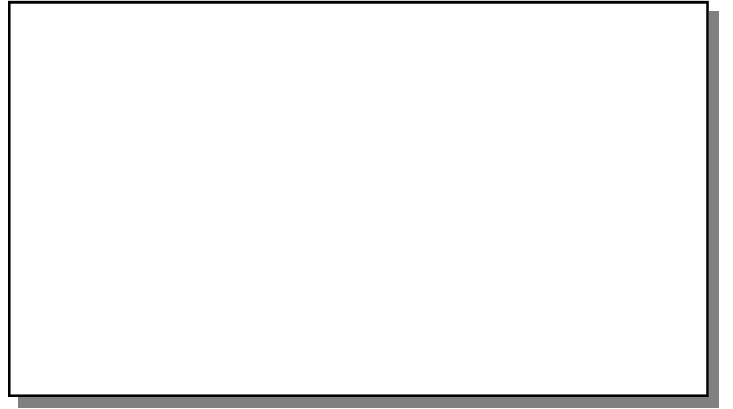
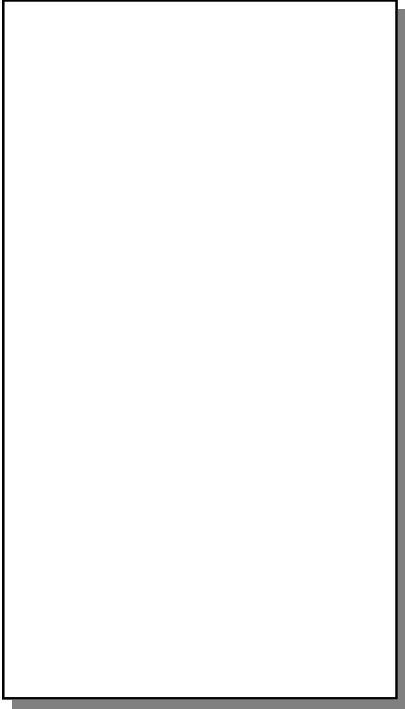
Tel #: _____

Please mail to:

Fort Salonga Association

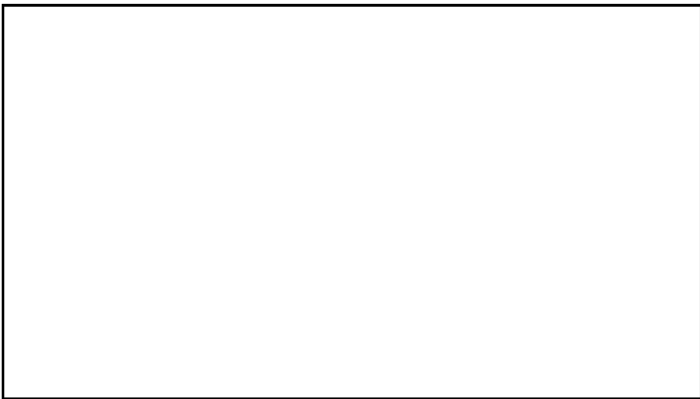
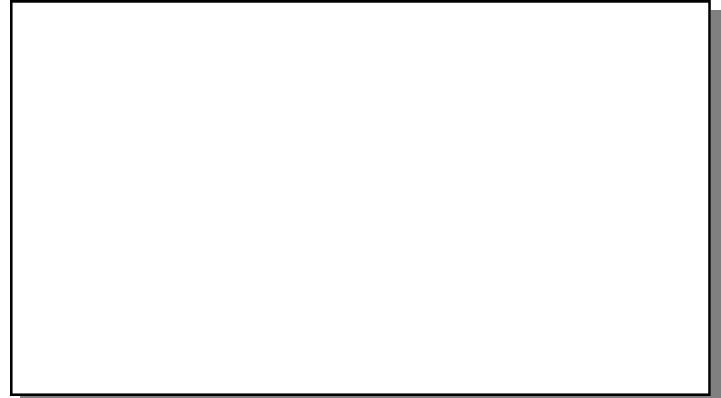
P.O. Box 247

Fort Salonga, NY 11768-0247



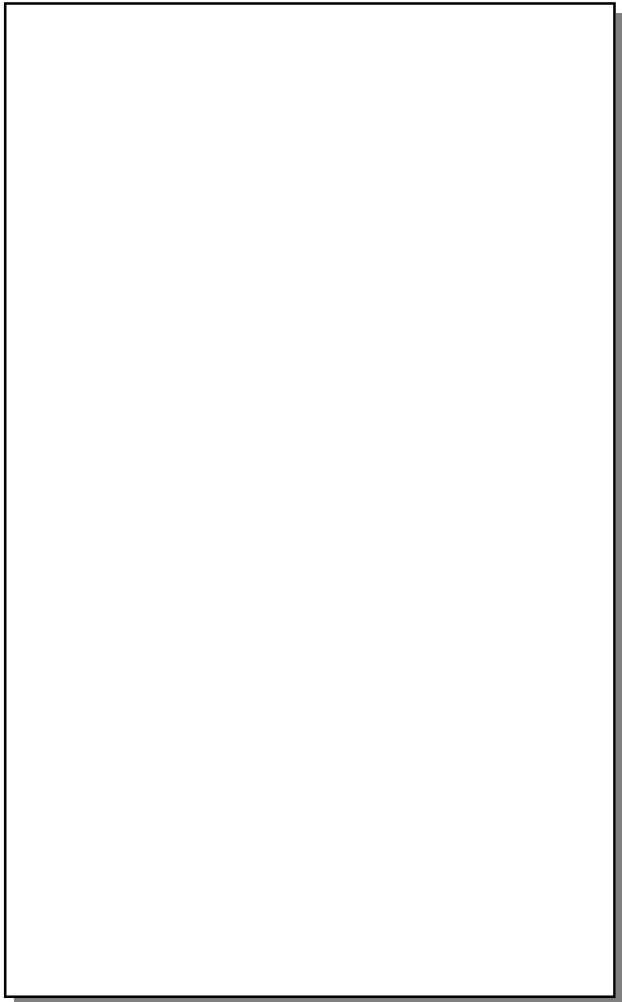
**We ask you to patronize our local
merchants whose ads appear in this
newsletter.**

**Their support helps offset our
expenses.**

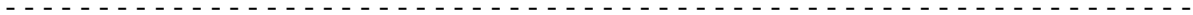


**Your card here will reach over 2,200
Fort Salonga Families**

**\$ 40 per issue or
\$125 in advance for four issues**



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

EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY APRIL 3rd @ 11AM
(Rain date April 10th)
Callahan's Beach**

SPRING BRUNCH

**SATURDAY APRIL 25th
@ 11:30 AM
Indian Hills Country Club**

2004 OFFICERS

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

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

2003—2004 DIRECTORS

Carlton Copp	Timber Lane
Bob Desmond	Susan Drive
Paul Fichtner	Hayes Hill Drive
Jim Ford	Wayne Court
Tony Geraci	Fort Salonga Road
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

Ken Kraska	Bryan Meadow
Sera Liebowitz	Woodfield Ave.
Chris Thomas	Mountain View Dr.
Paul Zacher	Thornton Drive

2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ACTIVITIES	Chris Thomas	757-5941
NEWSLETTER ADS.....	Jim Ford	757-5937
SMITHTOWN AFFAIRS.....	Frank Konop	261-8976
HUNTINGTON AFFAIRS.....	Paul Zacher	754-1064
ENVIRONMENT.....	Paul Mandelik	754-2078
ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.....	Tony Geraci	261-8728

MEMBERSHIP

For membership information, contact Paul Mandelik at 754-2078

If you wish to advertise in the newsletter please call Jim Ford at 757-5937 or e-mail jjford@suffolk.lib.ny.us
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. Newsletters Printed: 2200



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To Preserve Fort Salonga

*Important
Open Immediately*

**TO: CURRENT RESIDENT
OR**