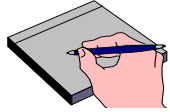




FORT SALONGA Association

Make Your Heritage Your Pride



The President's Message

Dear Neighbor,

When you read this letter we will be in deep summer here in Fort Salonga. The process of this newsletter's completion is always a last minute flurry of faulty e mails and phone calls to Frank Konop. This is followed by a fun night of labeling at Dick and Trini Costello's dining room table. We hope you find this edition informative. Thanks to all who made it happen. Let's begin with some positive news about membership!

Membership- Thanks to a exceptional response we have over 800 families who have paid their dues. That is great news for our community as we advocate for quality of life issues in the offices and corridors of local government. Thanks to so many of you who said YES to the Fort Salonga Association this year! If you are uncertain as to your status it should be accurately reflected on the mailing label. If not yet a 2004 paid member please complete the application in this newsletter.

Roads and Highways- We continue our quest for reduced speeds on route 25A and improvements to a number of area roads. Inside we have listed those roads that are due for repair over the next few months. In addition, we reached out to County Legislator Lynne Nowick to intercede with the town highway departments to accept responsibility for roads under their jurisdiction. Congratulations to the folks along Route 25A who convinced the state to remove the passing lane.

Lighting Ordinance- Last Fall we requested that the towns review present lighting regulations. Our interest was elevated as a number of new homes were so excessively lit causing compromise to neighboring residences. We are pleased to report that the Town of Smithtown has extended the commercial lighting ordinance to cover residential areas. In essence, the law states that lighting from one's home is not to shine directly on those of neighbors . It is a curious circumstance, while Fort Salonga is valued for its rural charm some seek to compromise that quality.

Good News- Recently, LIPA announced the awarding of Power Purchase agreements with several contractors with the intent of establishing new generating plants in several areas of the Island. We are pleased to report that none of those plants are planned for the industrial area to our south. While there is still interest to site such a plant in this area we believe that an important victory has been achieved as neighbors stand together in the interests of our community. Thanks to the Townline Association for their continued partnership in this effort.

Closing Note - To date we have received 300 letters in opposition to the LIRR rail yard. These have been marked and delivered to a number of politicians and the Railroad. We await their next move. Let's hope it is one that does not involve Fort Salonga. I look forward to seeing many of you during the months to come.

Be Well,

Paul Graf

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FORTSALONGA.ORG

BEST BRUNCH EVER

The annual brunch is our big social event of the year and has for many years been an FSA tradition as our residents meet friends and neighbors and get an update from our president and invited guests. This year's brunch on Sunday April 25th at the elegant Indian Hill CC was a standout event. We want to especially thank the staff of Indian Hills for their gracious hospitality and the superb selection of gastronomical delights. Thanks especially to Joe Caputo. The approximately 85 attendees were unanimous in their praise at the delicious offerings and the very reasonable price and picturesque setting.

We invited a number of elected officials to join us as our guests and we were pleased that Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone and Smithtown Councilwoman Joanne Gray and Townline Association President Alan Leon attended. President Paul Graf updated us on a number of issues and introduced our guest speaker, State Senator John Flanagan. He shared his perspective on the many issues facing Long Island and NY State, not the least of which is the potential impact on our property taxes from recent court decisions on additional education funding requirements for New York City. Senator Flanagan reiterated his opposition to the LIRR train yard and proposed power plant in our neighborhood. We appreciate his spending time with us and Paul Graf presented him with his official FSA lapel pin.



Paul Graf welcomes Senator Flanagan



1st Prize winners Fred and Betty Hoffman

It is at our Spring Brunch that we select our raffle winners. This raffle is vitally important to your FSA since it provides much needed revenue and enables us to hold our dues at \$10. Our first prize winner of \$500 was Betty and Fred Hoffman, fifty year residents of Fort Salonga. Gerry Schwartz was our second prize winner of a digital camera generously donated by Clayton Funeral Home and our third prize winner was Roberta Harned, a regular attendee at all

our brunches. Her prize was a \$100 gift certificate for IGA donated by owner and neighbor Charlie Reichert and store manager Mike Giancola. Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to our raffle winners.



Paul Graf congratulates 2nd prize winner Gerry Schwartz

FSA OPPOSES DUMPING IN L.I. SOUND

Your FSA has written to our elected officials opposing Connecticut's application to have the Army Corp of Engineers dump dredge spoils into Long Island Sound off Huntington's shore. Assurances of the "non toxic" nature of these spoils is hardly reassuring given that we heard similar assurances years ago about asbestos, DDT and PCBs. Of course once in the water, the potential damage is irreversible. What is particularly galling is that you may recall Connecticut has opposed a cross sound cable to provide much needed power to L.I. over concern for their shellfish. Meanwhile, our residents face increased pollution through expansion of the Northport power plant and a proposed new generating plant on our border while the need for additional local generating capacity would be mitigated by this cable. A number of lawsuits have been filed in opposition including one by Huntington and we are hopeful another site can be found.

LIRR TRAIN YARD BATTLE CONTINUES

Over the past two months, multiple meetings and discussions were held by The Townline Association and The Fort Salonga Association concerning the possible construction of a 16 track LIRR train storage yard in our vicinity. In our last Newsletter, the Fort Salonga Association mailed to our residents with your membership packets unsigned letters requesting that the LIRR construct this planned yard in the most appropriate and effective location, namely at or near the Eastern terminus of the Port Jefferson Line.

Approximately 300 letters were signed, many with hand written additional comments, and returned to us. We made four sets and then sent these four boxes of 300 letters out priority mail, with a personalized cover letter to: (1) Governor George Pataki, (2) Senator Chuck Schumer, (3) Senator Hillary Clinton, (4) Mr. James Dermody, LIRR Pres. Mr. Dermody personally responded to each of the 300 letters, which included a legible return address. The response was, like our letter, a personalized form letter. The one significant statement in Mr. Dermody's letter was, "Public input will once again be sought ... (in) early 2005." We will continue to support locating a new LIRR train yard at or near the end of the line, the logical and traditional location for train yards.

LIGHTING CODE CHANGE

As we reported in the last newsletter, light pollution has taken its toll on our community as it has elsewhere. The New York State Senate is currently considering a bill for our state calling for the use of fully shielded outdoor lamps designed to concentrate light on the ground and not in the sky. The Assembly has already passed an identical version. While security is the rationale for bright lights, there is no inherent reason a lamp that projects most of its light downward should reduce lighting security. Light pollution is the easiest kind of pollution to control and saves energy. As FSA President Paul Graf reminded us in the last newsletter, the recent blackout gave us all an opportunity to see how beautiful our night sky can really be.

While New York state is moving ahead, Smithtown has just approved an expansion of town lighting to extend commercial lighting regulations into the residential code. FSA directors Tony Geraci and Frank Konop spoke at a recent town board meeting in support of these changes championed by Paul Graf and we are pleased at the town's support. This code change requires home lighting must be directed down and not into a neighbor's property. We will be discussing similar changes with Huntington

KINGS PARK ASSOCIATES PROPERTY

Promises made and promises broken seem to be the theme on this site at the eastern corner of Pulaski and Townline Roads. The current word is that the owners are looking to sell this property. The question is to who and for what ? To this end we remain comitted to working with the town to provide input for the promised Master Plan which will guide development in this area.

The Association seeks to be proactive in this regard. Our work as a community cannot always be about opposition to developers' plans. It is our goal to be able to say "yes" for a change. We will continue to monitor the situation and encourage the Town to have the owner of this property comply with the current stipulation agreement for cleanup of this site.

SMITHTOWN LIBRARY EXPANSION OPTIONS

On May 25th a public meeting was held to review the recent resident survey regarding options to expand library service levels and bring it up to state standards. This involves expanding total square footage from 49,000 to approximately 100,000 square feet. As the survey results below demonstrate, residents opted for maintaining individual branches as opposed to consolidation and also expressed their preferences on library content and services. The architect hired by the library presented a tentative expansion plan for each of the options discussed below. The least cost option from a capital expenditure standpoint is the one favored by our residents, expansion of each individual branch for an estimated cost of \$28 Million, significantly lower than the other alternatives although library chairperson, Susan O'Shea, indicated that service level personnel costs would increase with more branches.

A number of Smithtown residents spoke at the meeting in favor of retaining and expanding the KP library, given its accessibility and strategic proximity to schools, transportation and the future development of the KP Psych property. FSA director Frank Konop indicated that it seemed unproductive to spend additional monies on detail planning for any but the least cost and most preferred alternative; retaining and expanding four individual libraries. If personnel costs would impact operating costs, that analysis should be undertaken before proceeding. In a climate of rejected school budgets it is important that the residents be only asked to pay for the library solution they actually want. Thanks to all our residents who participated in the survey.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Respondents were asked which of the following they supported regarding library equipment and facilities. Responses are ranked by total number of affirmative replies.

- 2,238 Add children's programming space (story hour and crafts).
- 2,101 Increase the number of computer workstations with Internet access.
- 1,915 Increase the amount of space for quiet areas and tutorial rooms.
- 1,859 Increase the number of seats and tables for library users.
- 1,730 Add a self-supporting café.
- 1,594 Add space for young adult collections and meetings.
- 1,400 Increase the number of photocopiers.
- 1,345 Increase the number of parking spaces.
- 1,104 Add space for Friends of the Library and book sales.
- 1,035 Increase the amount of general meeting room space.
- 657 Increase the amount of space for exhibits and displays.
- 237 Other

SERVICE OUTLETS

Respondents were asked to indicate their preference for each of the following library service outlet options with 1 being most preferred and 4 least preferred.

	1	2	3	4	Blank
Increase the size of each of the existing sites for a total of 100,000 square feet.	1,451	422	376	749	1,315
Build one library building of approximately 100,000 square feet in the center of the Smithtown Special Library District.	412	237	332	1,702	1,630
Build two state-of-the-art library buildings of approximately 50,000 square feet, with one in the western half of the library district and the other in the eastern half of the library district.	775	595	708	742	1,493
Build a new library building of approximately 50,000 square feet midway between the current Commack and Kings Park library buildings, build a new library building of approximately 25,000 square feet in Nesconset, and expand the main library in Smithtown to approximately 25,000 square feet.	858	704	387	875	1,489

FSA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Again this year the FSA awarded \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from both Kings Park and Northport High for demonstrating exemplary community involvement. This is the only school scholarship which directly addresses the contributions made by our young people in support of our community. Our Northport winner was Jessica De Marinis and our Kings Park winner was Heidi Richards. These awards are presented at the annual high school awards ceremony. Congratulations to these two fine young ladies and their community contributions.

Jessica DeMarinis

Jessica has demonstrated a strong sense of community both within the school and in her active participation at St. Philip Neri Church where she is an altar server and lector and also trains new altar servers. Within the school she reaches out to her fellow students in providing counseling to middle school students in their transition to high school and as a member of S.H.A.R.E. she helps students in their interpersonal relationships. An active school athlete, Jessica is captain of the varsity field hockey team and a member of the lacrosse team. She shares her values through "Athletes Helping Athletes" where she gives lessons to fifth graders on sportsmanship and dealing with competitive sports and academics. As a member of the String Chamber Ensemble she also participated in concerts at Hecksher State Park and house tours and award ceremonies. Jessica will be attending Cornell in the fall with a possible career in medicine



Heidi Richards

Heidi has demonstrated community involvement throughout her twelve years of scouting. She began her community service through food for the homeless programs and has expanded this through volunteering with the Peanut Butter Gang where she helps prepare and serve food to the needy. Heidi received her Silver Award for crocheting baby blankets for needy babies. Over the past several years her volunteering efforts have included Clown Club visits to local nursing homes and hospitals, volunteer work at the Special Olympics and most recently, coordinating the Long Island Cares local food drive at Northport King Kullen throughout the Thanksgiving and Chanukah/Christmas seasons. This year Heidi was selected by Kings Park High School as their nominee to compete in New York State and possibly on a national level for the 2004 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Attuned to our environment, Heidi has done extensive trail rebuilding at Glacier Park and will be repeating this in Colorado this summer as part of the Student Conservation Society.



Heidi and her proud dad

SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTORS

The work your FSA does in support of our community depends on a group of dedicated volunteers. We are always in search of a "few good men" (and women) to continue our organization's fine work, representing a tradition of community activism that has helped our community conquer numerous challenges since our founding in 1946. If you would like to consider applying as a 2005 director, nominations are considered at our annual Winter meeting, We encourage you to contact us at our website : www.fortsalonga.org or call President Paul Graf or any current director for more information. We meet each month (except July), usually in the library of the Fort Salonga School and attendance at one or more of these meetings is a good way to meet the current board and help decide on your further involvement.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

For several years the FSA and residents along 25A have petitioned the New York State DOT to reduce the 25A speed limit which now stands at 50 mph. This presents, in our view, a dangerous situation as drivers build up an excessive head of steam as they descend the long hill past the Sunken Meadow Parkway. Only close to the IGA Shopping center does the speed limit drop to 40 mph. While these efforts have been largely unsuccessful, we do have a small victory along this corridor. We are grateful to a Spinnaker Court resident whose complaint about high speed along this stretch of road has led to DOT investigation and removal of a passing lane just past Spinnaker.

We have been asked by several residents to remind our readers not to place branches and debris out for highway department pickup too far in advance. All too often they block visibility and as they encroach into our narrow streets they cause cars to swerve to avoid, particularly at night, causing potential accidents. The highway departments have distributed schedules to area residents so we know when these pickups are scheduled. Whenever possible we should try and coordinate our deposits with this schedule.

Carlton Copp has assumed responsibility as our new FSA Roads and Highways Director, replacing Tony Geraci who will be assisting Paul Mandelik on membership. Carlton has already been in touch with town highway departments regarding hanging branches. Carlton can be reached at 262-8780 or via e mail carlton.copp@nysuff.ang.af.mil for any road related issues.

Smithtown highway department has notified him that one and one half miles of our roads will be paved this summer including 6000 feet of Sunken Meadow as well as sections of Timberbrook, Brookfield and Oakmere. We are also working with the Beverly Beach residents to insure their gravel street is paved as soon as possible. Finally, we are working to get the lights restored along Bread and Cheese which were removed when new power cables were installed in the road in February.

KP PSYCH CENTER DEVELOPMENT

This article summarizes the activity related to the proposed development of the 370 acres of the Kings Park Hospital site by Lamb Acquisitions who had won the development rights. As you will see below, there has been strong opposition to their plans from a number of quarters, including your FSA. On June 15, 2004, Newsday announced that LAMB backed out of their \$7.5 million purchase agreement, stating that the 1895 deed was encumbered by a provision "stipulating that the property would revert to Brooklyn if the State stopped using the site as a mental hospital, which closed in 1996." Community opposition was probably also a factor.

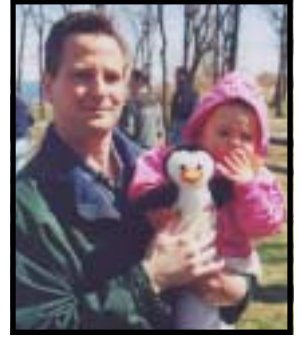
During the past month, proposals, discussions, and opinions have been flying hot and heavy concerning a "New Town" to be constructed on 370 acres of the old Kings Park "Lunatic Farm" of 1885, later renamed the Kings Park Psychiatric Center. On May 4, 2004, Lamb Acquisitions who purchased the property held the first of six community meetings in the Kings Park High School. Their PR firm, and their design firm, proposed high density 3 to 5 story townhouse type structures holding over 3,780 residences on 270 acres. (The land sale agreement stipulated that only about 90 acres or 1/4 of the total 370 acres could be built up.) Lamb's design would require the equivalent of about 1/14 acre zoning, or less, - instead of the existing R43 one acre zoning.

Frank DeRubeis, Director of the Smithtown Planning Department, was quoted in a NY Times article that, "...he was concerned about traffic and the sheer size of the development." In that same article, Dr. Lee Koppelman of the LI Regional Planning Board, exactly echoed the prime concern of most Fort Salonga residents living near the park, that because of the proximity to Long Island Sound - "...access is limited. There is only one way into the site, which is off 25A, and any increase in traffic generated is uncomfortable for residents of the area". (The Lamb proposal adds 3,780 residences to the existing 7,500 homes in Kings Park, an increase of 50.4%!

A well documented study of the proposal and its ramifications was generated by Dave Flynn of the Smithtown Planning Department, and sent to the FSA, among other interested entities. In response to a letter sent to Mr. Pat Vecchio, Smithtown Town Supervisor, by FSA Vice President, Dick Costello, Mr. Vecchio stated, "I have not waived one iota from my position as to the Kings Park Psychiatric Center property and will continue to oppose intensification as long as I sit in office." Local neighbors hope that the zoning board has the wherewith-all to stick to their code, and avoid the pressures that no doubt will be exerted upon them to down zone, and we are encouraged by Mr. Vecchio's strong position.

SPRING EGG HUNT DRAWS LARGE TURNOUT

Once again our plans were thwarted by Mother Nature when our spring egg hunt scheduled for Saturday April 3rd was canceled after a week of rain and soggy conditions. Our hunt director Dick Costello made the command decision to reschedule to the following Saturday and we posted signs to that effect. Fortunately everyone seemed to get the word and even more fortunately Mother Nature rewarded us with a sunny but windy day.



Our regular special guest performer Big Bunny a.k.a. Paul Graf was called out of town this year. (contrary to several rumors he was not frightened away by the serval cat which escaped several days prior) Also our regular emcee Bob Desmond was out of town. While he provided all the necessary stuffed animals and jelly bean jar, our backup team headed by Dick Costello was called to active duty and everything went off without a hitch. As you can see from the accompanying pictures a huge turnout resulted and a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to the winners of the jelly bean guessing contest, Hailey DelGiorno who guessed 340 and Bob Guthy who guessed 350. The actual number was 356. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped supervise the race and distribute the stuffed animals. They include Eileen and Chris Ripp, Nancy Rocks, Mary Ellen Stewart, Stelanie Poalillo and many others as well as a number of FSA directors and families. Thanks to all who attended, all who helped, and a special thanks to our Vice President Dick Costello who managed the event. Based on the turnout we will increase the quantity and quality of stuffed animals next year to insure even more happy faces..





HISTORIC FAMILIES 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.

BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

This June we commemorated the 60th anniversary of D-Day and again honor America's "greatest generation". The bravery exhibited then is again demonstrated in the daily individual acts of bravery exhibited by our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year also marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of one of our brave Revolutionary war heroes who contributed to our successful war of liberation from England and we are therefore dedicating this historic section to the memory of Benjamin Tallmadge. Like so many of our troops today, he was a true "citizen soldier".

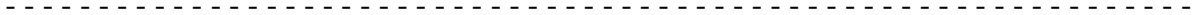
Benjamin Tallmadge like so many of our heroes had planned a simple life. Born in Setauket he was a minister's son and when at the age of 13 he was introduced to the president of Yale he was deemed an acceptable candidate. Considered too young, his father kept him home two more years and he finally entered Yale in 1769. By 19 he had settled in Wethersfield, Conn. teaching public school students barely younger than he. He became friends with Nathan Hale, the American spy later captured and killed by the British and whose name the community of Halesite adopted. In 1775 he caught the flame of patriotism which "electrified the land and spread from breast to breast" as he wrote in his memoirs.

In June, 1776 Tallmadge entered the war and was appointed a lieutenant in the state militia. Later that summer he fought in the Battle for Long Island where Washington was defeated and forced to retreat to New Jersey. In 1770, promoted to major, he led raids from Connecticut on British Long Island forts and became Washington's top spy. One of Tallmadge's best known feats was the capture of British spy Major John Andre, who conspired with the infamous turncoat Benedict Arnold to hand over West Point to the British. After Andre was intercepted and then released by American militiamen in September, 1780 Tallmadge remained suspicious and had him recaptured where his identity was discovered and he was hanged. Arnold escaped to England.

Promoted to colonel, it is Tallmadge's raid on the British Fort Slongo, located approximately one half mile north of our historical marker on 25A, that establishes his credentials as one of our own. In October 1781 after being frustrated by bad weather, he was finally able to embark with a group of 50 men from Captain Richard's company of the Connecticut line and fifty more dismounted dragoons under command of Major Trescott. They landed at Crab Meadow near the farm of Nathaniel Skidmore. Having obtained several accurate maps of the post, even to knowing where the sentinels were posted, Tallmadge was able to plan the attack employing only a portion of his detachment. Striking at 3 AM, the British were totally surprised. Not one American was killed or injured, and a brass artillery piece was captured. It seems that on that particular Sunday morning the British troops were "carousing" at a nearby inn located where the Chase Bank now stands on 25A. Directly across the street from this inn were located a general store, post office and blacksmith shop, now the site of Fort Salonga Shell and North Fork Bank.

After the war Tallmadge returned to Connecticut, marrying Mary Floyd, daughter of Mastic's William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He served as a congressman from 1801 to 1817 and died in 1835. Despite a reputation for bravery, like many heroes he was a modest man, not interested in a military career but only freeing America from British rule. According to the Three Village Historical Society he combined an extremely strong personality with a quiet ability and never showed fear throughout his many dangerous exploits. We salute this brave early American hero.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I wish to volunteer

2004 OFFICERS

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

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

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Ken Kraska	Bryan Meadow
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Paul Zacher	Thornton Drive

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HUNTINGTON AFFAIRS.....	Paul Zacher	754-1064
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MEMBERSHIP.....	Paul Mandelik	754-2078

MEMBERSHIP

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

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. Ads on diskettes must include hard copy. Newsletters Printed: 2300



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