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AREA RESIDENTS are not all aboard for the DOT's proposed renovations of this rest area, which is located between exits 51 and 52 on the Long Island Expressway
Photo by Eddie Gardner

Residents Fuming Over LIE Rest Area

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

The New York State Department of Transportation has drawn up plans to renovate the current rest area between exits 51 and 52 on the east-bound side of the Long Island Expressway. This area is set to include a place for drivers to rest, a picnic area, restrooms, a pet run, vending machines, public telephones and electrification stations for refrigerated trucks. The stop also would include an inspection station for trucks and space for the Long Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Suffolk County Highway Patrol to have personnel on site.

Many residents and members of the Dix Hills community have come out against these proposed plans by the

DOT. Leading efforts to prevent the renovations is Dix Hills resident and member of the group Citizens Against the Rest Stop, Twila Silverman. She cites health concerns, predominantly cancer and asthma, which the group believes can be caused by diesel emissions.

The primary concern is the location of the rest area. The neighborhood off of exits 51 and 52 of the LIE is residential. The rest area would not pose such an issue in a more commercial or industrial area where people are not inhaling the polluted air as much, according to Silverman. This area in Dix Hills was chosen out of 40 potential locations, Silverman said.

Eileen Peters, spokesperson for the DOT, explained that this location was chosen "because it is centrally located, it is already a rest area, the state owns the

property so it is a lower cost for taxpayers, and it's separated from the community by a sound barrier and a service road. It is easy access on and off the expressway. There is no need to travel through the communities."

According to Silverman, Nassau County has declined proposals to allow this rest stop to be constructed in its jurisdiction, partially because a bridge would need to be constructed. However, at the Dix Hills location, the plans call for the Carll's Straight Path Bridge to be demolished and rebuilt to the current engineering standards. The demolition itself would cost \$800,000. Silverman believes this \$800,000 can be saved by finding a location for a rest area where a bridge does not have to be knocked down

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or money can be spent on purchasing land for a rest area that does not lie in the vicinity of residences. The preliminary cost of the project is \$35 million.

Legislator Steven Stern (D-Huntington) raised another concern regarding the Carll's Straight Path Bridge. He said that the DOT has plans to paint the existing bridge and questions why taxpayer money should be spent to paint a bridge that may be demolished in the near future.

"I think that this is a colossal waste of taxpayer money and for months now since taking office, I have been calling for better coordination between all levels of government when it comes to planning in our area," Stern commented. He went on to say that, in this instance, the DOT is "not even speaking to itself about what is going on about the particular project and I just can't understand how you allocate money and resources to a bridge that you are planning on knocking down."

Silverman also believes a rest area that boasts an extensive tourist center would be more appropriate further west than "exit 51 [or] 52 out of 73 exits of a 66.38-mile-long Long Island Expressway." She stressed that, besides the Hamptons and Splish Splash, most tourist attractions are in Nassau County and by the time visitors reach the Dix Hills area, they are already aware of their destination and not in the planning stages of their trip.

According to Silverman, this Dix Hills community is home to six public schools serving 4,500 students, five religious institutions with additional schools and day care centers and two parks equipped with playgrounds. The site of the rest area lies 330 feet away from the Dix Hills water facility.

Regarding health concerns for those living in the area, Silverman said, "Diesel exhaust has an accumulative factor and stays in an area of five miles for several days. This would mean a constant yearly accumulative cloud of toxic pollution hovering over our area of Dix Hills poisoning the residents and children." This exhaust would be a result of trucks with refrigeration systems idling in the rest area. Silverman claims that the electrification stations, which would alleviate the need for a truck to keep running, "will not be efficient or adequate to prevent trucks from idling

because only 10% of all trucks are equipped with the needed upgrade that can cost them up to \$8,000 per truck. This percentage of possible users will not increase until the truck stop electrification is established nationwide, which is estimated to be in 20 years."

In response, Peters said the DOT understands that the renovated rest area will not completely eliminate idling, but said it "will provide an alternative to idling." As for the truck inspection station that will be located at the proposed rest area, Peters clarified that it is not a permanent weigh station. The equipment will be portable. She said that a similar facility was recently built in Plainview.

Silverman emphasized the impact these fumes would have on children. "Children are among the most susceptible to health effects of diesel exhaust exposure as a result of the child's developing body and lungs, narrower airways, faster metabolism and faster breathing rate than adults," Silverman explained. She claimed that the project is in violation of the Clean Air Act. According to Silverman, there is a high rate of several types of cancers, including lung cancer, in the Dix Hills area, which also raises concerns for her and others worried about the proposed project.

Stern concurs with Silverman and other residents. "I share their concerns and I have many questions about the proposed rest stop, particularly air quality concerns with idling trucks," he said. "My younger son has asthma and he's going to be playing on those fields that are in close proximity to this proposed rest area, so I have deep concerns about the environmental impact of this project on the surrounding area."

Responding to these concerns, Peters said, "Overall, we have spent years investigating all of the issues that were raised and we are confident that we have addressed and resolved" the concerns of the community. Silverman, on the other hand, believes many issues have yet to be fully discussed and, ultimately, this proposed rest area should be relocated to a commercial area in order to alleviate the health concerns that are present in a residential area.

To comment on this issue, send a written statement to Matthew Hoffman at the NYSDOT Region 10, State Office Building, 250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788.



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON—The Selden Fire Department Band displays pride and tradition in a local parade.

In today's era of hip-hop music, old-style military bands are becoming obsolete. The Selden Fire Department Band is actively seeking to reverse this trend and re-establish their once-thriving musical culture.

In their pin-straight formation and impeccable uniforms, they claim to be one of the few remaining bands of their kind in Suffolk County. Since their formation in June of 1972, the Selden Fire Department Band has earned the title of New York State Champions 10 times. Brass and percussion musicians from all walks of life are welcome to join. There are currently 23 members on the roster, including firefighters, students, teachers and school bus drivers, ranging in age

from high school students to participants in their early 70s.

Lieutenant of Engine Company Three, Timmy Turner, recently celebrated his "twentieth year playing the bass drum. When I started, it was bigger than me." He added, "I absolutely do have a pride in my fire department. It is a feel-good thing. I get a little carried away playing sometimes."

The band currently is having some difficulty staying afloat because of differences in members' schedules. They would like to increase their roster so they have enough musicians available for each performance and band directors have tried to reach out to local school districts to

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recruit students, but only one student has responded to such a request over the years. Band Director Pat Murray explains to potential band members, "If you enjoy playing music, if you spend all of those years learning it in school, it is an ideal outlet. It's not like watching it at a football game. There is more to it."

The Selden Fire Department Band stands for more than simply treating parade-goers to their traditional, patriotic sounds. According to Selden resident Sophie Murray, they stand for family. An Irish immigrant, Murray often brought her children to the local parades. She recalled her two children enthusiastically waving to their father, the band director, as he passed them on the parade route.

Anyone interested in receiving more information on or joining the Selden Fire Department Band should contact either Sophie or Pat Murray at 732-5104.

—Paige M. Feigenbaum

Celebrations Ahead In Polish Town, USA

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

As Polish immigrants arrived in the New World and passed through Ellis Island, their journey often continued to the town of Riverhead. Dating back to the early 1900s, they settled in an area now called Polish Town, USA. In celebration of this Polish heritage, several events are scheduled this summer.

According to Burte Harris, publicist for the Polish Town Civic Association, Polish immigrants felt comfortable in the "land of fields" because they could continue their professions in agriculture. This has led to Riverhead's current demographic, as one in four residents are of Polish heritage.

Kay Davis, a past president of the Polish Town Civic Association and the owner of a local salon, claims to be "one of the oldest merchants in Polish Town." In fact, Davis's mother was involved in the construction of the historic St. Isidore Roman Catholic Church that Polish Town, USA is founded around.

As Polish Town, USA is entered, the Polish culture is visible. Harris says, "The spirit of the Polish folk are there. You can sense them." Reminiscent of Polish architecture, homes and shops are adorned with traditionally patterned shutters that depict flowers and daily lives. Streets once displayed directional signs pointing visitors to such Polish cities as Warsaw and Krakow.

Each year, the Polish Town Civic Association hosts several events to raise money for "beautifying" Polonaise Park. On Friday, June 23, The Fabulous Greaseband will be making its sole Riverhead appearance this summer. Festivities begin at 8 p.m. and conclude at midnight. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20. For more information

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on The Fabulous Greaseband, visit www.greaseband.com.

August 19 and 20 will mark the 32nd Annual Polish Town Fair. This fair is known to attract visitors from all over the world. Featuring "polkas, pancakes and pirogies," people "eat their way from one end of the fair to the next," Harris commented. The fair is known for its music, dancing and food from several different cultures. Harris emphasized the kielbasa in particular. "It is very exciting for me to be a part of the Polish Town Fair," he said. Davis

added, "To be a part of this ethnic village and my involvement in the Polish community. It goes hand in hand."

Years ago, business was conducted in Polish, with people receiving their news in church and the local shops. Today, the people of Polish Town continue to be proud of their Polish heritage, but also enjoy celebrating America and all of the cultures that it encompasses. More information about the history of Polish Town, USA and their upcoming events can be found by visiting www.polishtownusa.com or by calling the Polish Town Civic Association at 369-1616.

In Lake Grove

Sports Plus Complex May Face Closure

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

In June of 1996, the family-oriented complex Sports Plus opened its doors to the public. Since then, it has been frequented by many locals and visitors to the area. While the facility is home to several types of entertainment, including an arcade, LaserTron, ice skating rink, banquet hall, 48-lane bowling center, rock climbing wall and indoor roller coaster, the complex is currently facing financial difficulties. This is just the latest of multiple monetary struggles for the business, as it has been sold twice before in its 10 years of existence.

Bill Reitzig, president of Sports Plus, admits, "Business has changed over the years. With that, the dynamics of the building have changed. The ice rink is [important] to a number of people, but if we continue as a facility, our pricing would have to change dramatically."

Whole Foods Market and L.A. Fitness have expressed an interest in opening up locations on the property that Sports Plus is currently situated on.

In order for those plans to progress, Lake Grove has to approve the rezoning of the land to allow for retail outlets. A public hearing was held on June 1 to discuss these matters. Reitzig explains, "The owner of the land is proposing to turn the entire building into retail. It is up to the discretion of the village board."

Whole Foods could potentially bring even more jobs to the area. Reitzig claims, "We have a number of excellent employees and they've been excellent about the proposed transition. Whole Foods is a company that is ranked 15 on the Fortune 100 'Best Companies To Work For' and has expressed interest in hiring our employees."

Tom Palamara is concerned about the future of the ice rink portion of Sports Plus. He serves as the executive

director of Suffolk Police Athletic League Ice Hockey and as the executive vice president of The RinX in Hauppauge. Regarding the impact losing Sports Plus would have on PAL, he explains, "We currently purchase 60% of our ice from Sports Plus and 40% from The RinX, and we have approximately 350 families that play for PAL. When Sports Plus goes out we are not going to be able to keep those 350 families, which equal 21 teams. We will have to cut our program at least in half. We will be able to buy some additional ice from The RinX, but there isn't that much additional available."

Aside from Sports Plus and The RinX, the only other year-round ice rinks in Suffolk County are Superior Ice Rink and Dix Hills Ice Rink. Superior also faces issues with ice availability and would therefore not likely have ice time to offer to PAL. Palamara does not foresee the construction of additional ice surfaces at The RinX. "As a business model, it doesn't warrant the expansion and the town is not interested in another ice surface," he explained. The RinX is a privately owned ice rink nestled in the town of Islip's Hidden Pond Park. There are also rumors floating around about the development of two more ice arenas in Suffolk County, one of them on the Grumman lands, but no concrete plans have yet been announced.

From a business perspective, Palamara confesses, "Competition is good. We work well with Superior and Sports Plus. It would be unfortunate for that rink to go out. I would love to see the zoning never change." All parties involved said they are working together proactively to keep Sports Plus open for the duration of the hockey season. It would be "catastrophic," according to Palamara, to cancel such a large portion of the PAL hockey program mid-season once the children have worked hard and the parents have paid money.

Dead Body Found Floating At Beach In Riverhead

The Riverhead Town Police responded to a call at 6 p.m. on July 17, reporting a subject floating in the water off the beach of Meetinghouse Creek Road. According to police, they found a white male in his late 40s or early 50s floating in the water. The subject was pronounced dead by the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office. Preliminary investigations suspect drowning, not foul play, as the cause of death, but the Riverhead detective division is investigating this case further. No identification of the victim was released as of press time.

Man Arraigned For Brutal Beating

A man accused of assaulting a gas station attendant in Medford was arraigned on July 18, according to Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota's office.

Jose Olguin, 20, was brought up on a

grand jury indictment for having allegedly assaulted a Citgo gas station worker, 34-year-old Vehbi Karahan, of Medford, at about 5:10 a.m. on July 4. Witnesses claim the dispute began when the attendant refused to sell the suspect beer on the grounds that he was already intoxicated, according to the DA's office. As of press time, the victim remained hospitalized at Stony Brook University Hospital with severe head injuries. Olguin also sustained injuries in this incident and received medical attention at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital.

At his arraignment, Olguin pleaded not guilty to a charge of second-degree assault, a violent felony charge with a maximum prison sentence of two to seven years. Judge Barbara Kahn set a cash bail or bond at \$500,000, according to the DA's office, and the defendant is scheduled to return to court on August 4.

—Paige M. Feigenbaum

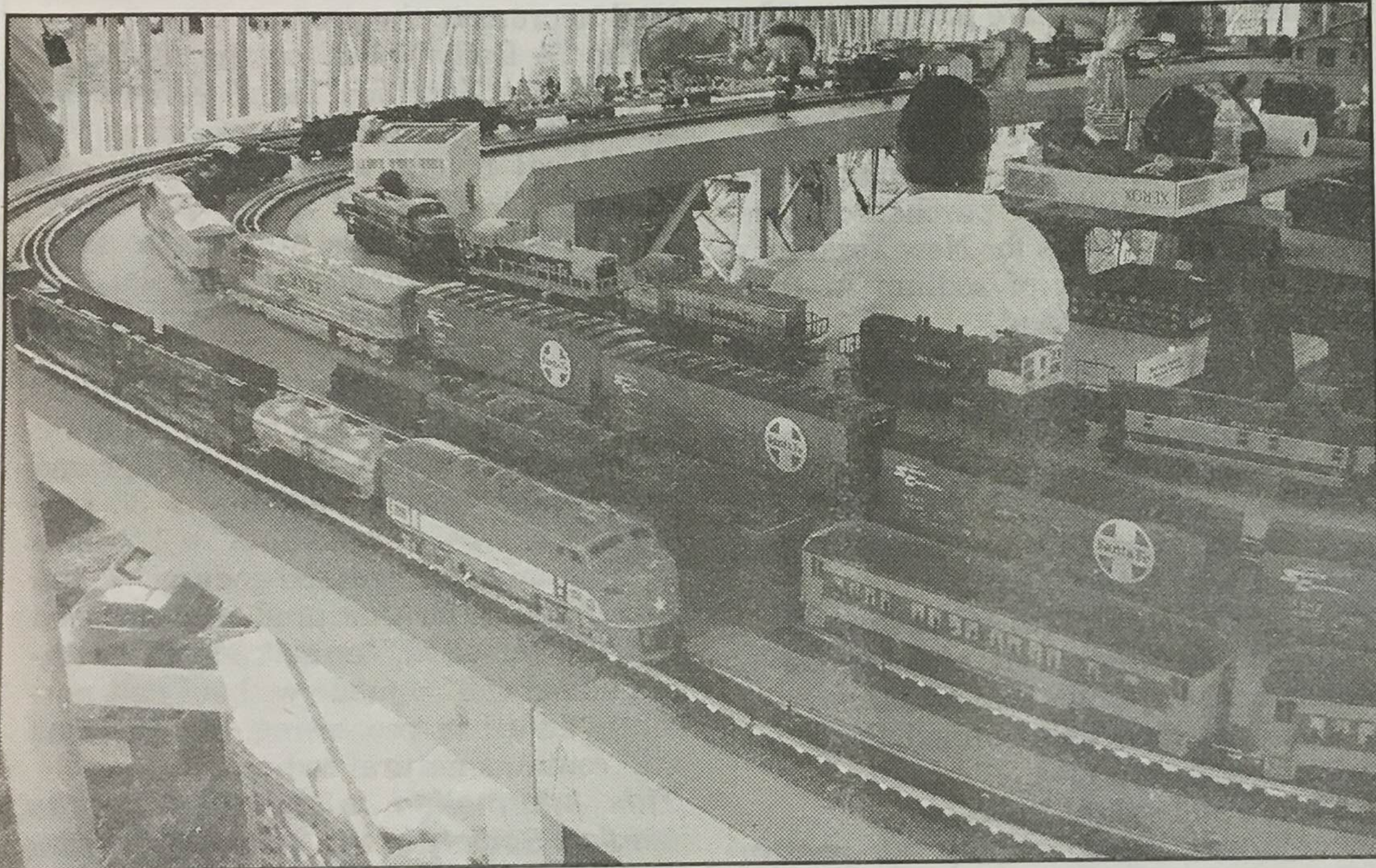
Old Rail Cars Keep Chugging Along

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

Remember the discernible puffs of smoke in the air and the harmonious toot of the horn that signified a train entering the station in classic movies? Since 1991, the Railroad Museum of Long Island has captured this antique essence in their two locations, one in Riverhead and one in Greenport. Celebrating this history, the museum will be hosting its Seventh Annual Riverhead Railroad Festival on

Museum Brings History To Life

the Greenport location, Fisher explained. This branch houses delicate displays in cases, and is more like a typical museum. The museum is located in a historic Long Island Rail Road freight station. The passenger station is home to the maritime museum. Though visitors have to pay an additional fee to visit the maritime museum, many families do take advantage of the proximity and visit both



THE RAILROAD MUSEUM of Long Island proves that model trains are not just for holiday decoration. The museum exhibits antique train paraphernalia year-round at their Riverhead and Greenport locations, and will host its Seventh Annual Riverhead Railroad Festival on August 26 and 27.

August 26 and 27.

"The railroad industry was the foundation, along with the shipping industry, to Long Island's culture," said Don Fisher, a trustee of the RMLI. "We have consistently, through history, [as] Long Islanders, used the railroad to move eastward from New York City. We have expanded our homes, businesses and industries across Long Island using the railroad up until the 1960s. Then we depended more on trucks, but today we see the railroad coming back to move freight, and throughout all time the railroad has continued to move people back and forth to work and play."

The RMLI is a family-oriented day-trip destination. "Children love it, adults love it, and retired people love it because they remember the way the trains used to run on Long Island with the freight and they remember the steam locomotives," said Fisher. Senior citizens enjoy reminiscing over the memories that they have attached to the unique railroad cars on display, he said.

Such "fine" exhibits can be found at

museums in one trip.

Two of the most popular displays in Greenport are "a restored caboose and the snowplow 'Jaws,'" said Fisher. The snowplow received this name because it was painted around when the movie "Jaws" was released. The painters decided to paint teeth on the snowplow and name it after the film.

Different from Greenport, "Riverhead is what we call our restoration site," Fisher explained. "That is where we have our wood shop, our mechanical shop and Riverhead is where we restore and repair and fix the heavy equipment." A major attraction here is the opportunity to ride on the LIRR's 1964-1965 World's Fair train.

The Greenport and Riverhead locations can both be visited in one day. The admission fee covers the visit to both locations on the same day. Visitors usually park in Riverhead and board the "Greenport Scoot" at approximately 11:23 a.m. to take them to the Greenport location. The "Greenport Scoot" is a regularly scheduled LIRR train on Saturdays and Sundays.

Visitors spend an hour in Greenport and arrive back in Riverhead by 2 p.m.

Fisher, who is also one of the co-chairs of the event's committee, spoke about the upcoming railroad festival, noting that there will be much more to experience. "The festival will be different from normal days because we will have many, many more exhibits and displays on the property," he said. For starters, two additional model train layouts will be on display. "We will have a big top tent with vendors and historical societies displaying their wares." There will also be a concession stand present with food from the Maple Tree Deli in Riverhead.

Traditionally, visitors are not permitted to go inside the railcars that are on display, but in honor of this festival, the public will be able to explore first-hand the interior of the cars and "see the restoration work that is going on," according to Fisher. The LIRR, the Metropolitan

Transportation Authority and the MTA Police Department will display their rescue and law enforcement equipment.

Fisher said he is excited that "our special guests this year are members of the Long Island Antique Power Association and they'll have a display of antique motors and tractors and equipment. The other special appearance is the American Truck Historical Society Long Island Chapter." A commemorative T-shirt for the festival will be available at the museum's gift shop.

The festival will be held on the museum's grounds at 416 Griffing Avenue in Riverhead on August 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children between the ages of five and 12, and children under age five will be admitted for free. For more information, call the museum at 727-7920 or email Richard Gorddard, the event coordinator, at rgorddard@aol.com. To learn more about the Railroad Museum of Long Island, visit www.rmli.org.

S'hampton Trustee And Clerk Up For Election

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

Southampton Town voters will have the opportunity to head to the polls to vote for a town trustee and town clerk.

In the race for town trustee, Republican Ed Warner Jr. will face off against Democratic candidate Kristina Lewis. The winner will fill the remainder of the unexpired term that ends in December 2007.

Warner will be vying to fill the vacancy left by his father, Ed Warner Sr., who passed away in March while still in office. Currently, he is serving as Southampton's acting town trustee, a position he has held since April. Warner graduated from Hampton Bays High School in 1977. He received his associ-

ate's degree in marine technology in 1979 from Suffolk County Community College. Residing in Hampton Bays, Warner is a sixth generation bayman. He is actively involved in the shellfishing industry, and has worked with the town trustees on shellfish enhancement projects.

On the Democratic ticket, Lewis hopes to be elected as the first female town trustee in Southampton history. She has resided in the town of Southampton for 21 years, raising her children and now her grandchild there. Lewis has an extensive background in architecture and interior design. She said this has given her vital experience, as it has allowed her to collaborate with the town trustees on permitting for projects she has worked on. Her hobbies,

canoeing and kayaking, have developed her interest in the fresh water ponds in Southampton. Lewis was a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Southampton for six years and has contributed to various community service projects. She received her bachelor's degree in sculpture and photography and her master's degree in architectural and interior design from the Pratt Institute.

In the race for town clerk, Democrat Marla Schwenk will challenge Republican Sundy Schermeyer for the seat. This election will fill the unexpired term that ends in December 2009. The post is up for grabs following the resignation of former Town Clerk Marietta Seaman, who stepped down in May after she was appointed to serve as the vice president of Suffolk County Off-Track Betting.

Democratic candidate Schwenk is a native of Southampton. She holds 19 years of business experience, has served 33 years on community boards, and has been involved in various civic associations in the community for more than 20 years. Since 1978, she has been involved with the Southampton Youth Association. She was a Tuckahoe School Board member from 1982 to 1985, serving as president from 1983 to 1985. Schwenk graduated from Southampton High

School and received her bachelor's degree in French from the University of Maine. She also studied in counseling at Long Island University's C.W. Post Campus.

A fourth generation resident of Westhampton Beach, Republican challenger Schermeyer has been a part of the town of Southampton for five years, including serving as the deputy town parks superintendent for the past three years. Her experiences with the town have given her knowledge on such matters as licensing, permit administration, bidding policies and practices, and managing a large staff. She is also serving as a member of the planning board for the village of Westhampton Beach, a member of the Southampton Town Youth Board and a member of the Southampton Aquatic Recreation Center, along with other community service groups and town committees. Schermeyer currently resides in Westhampton Beach with her husband, two teenage children, and her grandfather, Arma Andon, who has served as the mayor of the village of Westhampton Beach. She received her bachelor's degree in business management, public administration and accountancy from Long Island University's Southampton Campus.

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A CALL TO SERVE—Suffolk County Auxiliary Police Officers Raymond Thies and Ronald Snyder, pictured in the white shirts, were two of the 26 auxiliary members who were honored last week. The 26 officers received the presidential Call to Service Award for their voluntary efforts in keeping the community safe. Each has clocked at least 4,000 hours of service. Pictured with Thies and Snyder are members of the fourth precinct auxiliary.

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Auxiliary Police Officers Honored

Names	Hours	Names	Hours
Carol Marchesi	4,012	Raymond Thies	5,490
Paul Rogalle	4,017	Ralph Combattente	5,833
Leonard Pesce	4,105	Ronald Snyder	6,036
Karl Mann	4,413	Howard Sarach	6,077
Carol - Lynn O'Pray	4,417	Peter Capala	6,134
Edward Marchesi	4,641	Warren Siska	6,702
Karl Chin	4,920	Donald Koehler	7,025
Charles Voboril	4,972	Lawrence Delamater	7,292
Richard DeBetta	5,018	Steven Komins	7,322
Vincent Fezza	5,044	William Miller	7,894
Lawrence Avenido	5,168	Jeremiah Dunne	8,034
Gary Matzelle	5,199	Gary Siska	10,449
Bernard Smith	5,368	Walter Tully	28,626

Hats Off To SCPD Auxiliary Police

26 Volunteers Receive Recognition

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

The volunteer sector of the Suffolk County Police Department, which some believe is often overlooked, was recently honored with the United States president's Call to Service Award.

The Suffolk County Auxiliary Police "assist the regular police department in non-emergency type events such as parades and carnivals," explained Sergeant Harold Fay, commanding officer of the SCPD emergency management section. "They are civil defense volunteers, so in a disaster, they are called to service."

Jeremiah E. Dunne, chief and assistant program director of the SCPD Auxiliary Police, had hoped to be a regular police officer "as a younger man," but he pursued a career with a bank located on the 83rd floor of Two World Trade Center instead. As fate would have it, he was not

there when the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks occurred, but because of his service in the auxiliary police, he responded to the site during the recovery efforts. Dunne is now the director of investigation for James P. Lamb and Associates, a licensed private detective agency in Commack.

Having served as an auxiliary police officer since 1992, Dunne said this program has afforded him "a unique position through the Suffolk County Police Department. I've been through instructor development school." This has "enabled me to be a general topics instructor to police officers."

Dunne is also a qualified fire arms instructor and explained the rigorous training that is involved when becoming an auxiliary officer. "We also go through an Emergency Vehicle Operation course,"

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SCPD Auxiliary Police...

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he said, and "through the medical examiner's office viewing autopsies. I am really very impressed with the training we get." These skills proved to be helpful when the force was faced with such disasters as the crash of TWA Flight 800 and the terrorist attacks.

The auxiliary police offer a basic course every two years to train new members. All members participate in a standard block of training annually. According to Dunne, they endure "deadly physical force, police baton and fire arms qualification."

In recognition of their dedication to the community, Dunne and 25 of his colleagues in the SCPD Auxiliary Police force were honored with the Call to Service Award in a ceremony on June 27. The award originated in 2002, when President George W. Bush expressed interest in creating a pro-

gram to promote recognition of volunteerism in the United States.

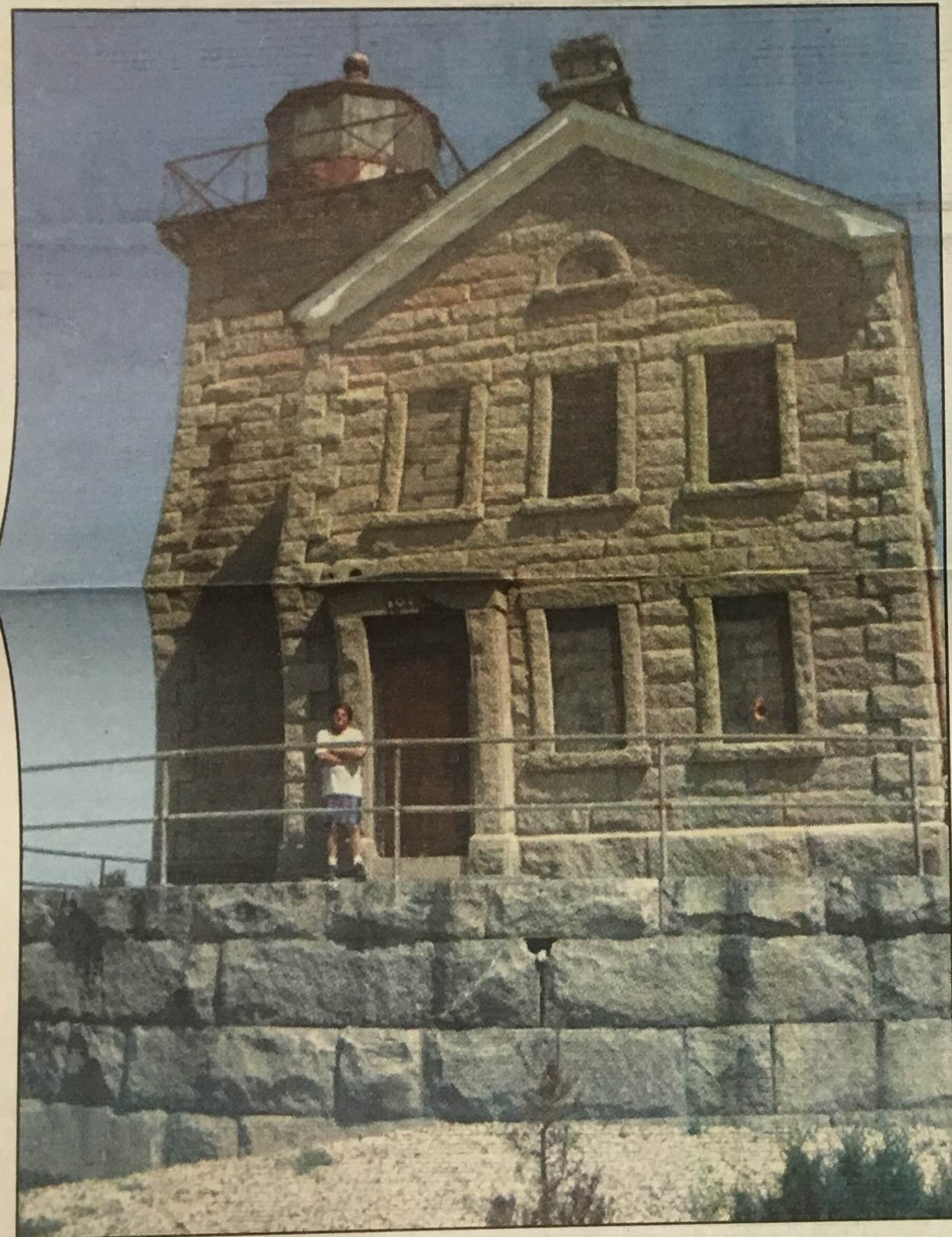
The ceremony took place at the Western Campus of Suffolk County Community College. Each of the officers have put in more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service. According to Fay, this is the first time any SCPD Auxiliary Police officer has received such an honor. This award will continue to be distributed as officers reach this milestone of 4,000 hours in their service. The top recipient from the auxiliary has contributed a total of 28,626 recorded hours to the program. Dunne has completed more than 14,000 hours so far.

"I am proud to work with the men and women in the Suffolk County Police Department and to serve my community as a volunteer professional," Dunne said.

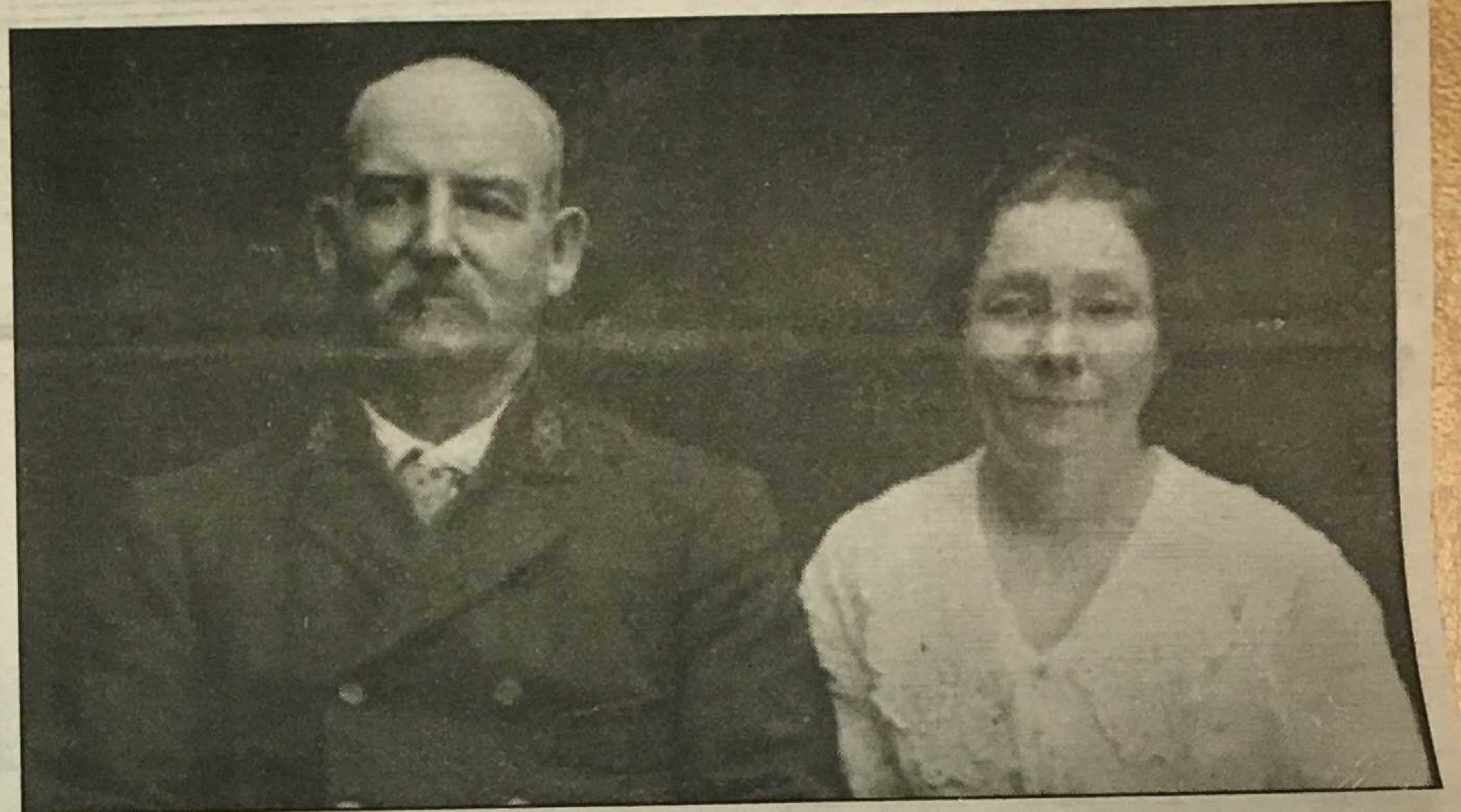
For more information on the SCPD Auxiliary Police, call 852-6355.

A Guiding Light

Visitors To Experience A Piece Of History



TO THE LIGHTHOUSE—Richard Allen, shown here in front of the Cedar Island Lighthouse in East Hampton, will be leading a free tour of the lighthouse on August 12. Allen has a personal connection to the site, as his great-grandfather, William Follet, served as the Cedar Island Lighthouse keeper from 1916 through 1934.



William and Atta Follet

By Paige M. Feigenbaum

Lighthouses that once were used to help nautical travelers navigate Long Island's waterways now serve as a piece of both personal and regional history. One of these historic landmarks will be the site of a free tour on August 12, during which participants will get to hear from a family member of a past lighthouse keeper.

The Cedar Island Lighthouse in East Hampton's Cedar Point Park dates back to 1838. The original structure was built of wood, but was rebuilt in 1868 using granite to make it sturdier. The lighthouse was originally situated on a three-acre island. Over time, the island eroded and became only one acre in size and, as a result of the hurricane of 1938, silt built up making the former island the peninsula it is today. People are now able to walk out to reach it.

Richard Allen, who will serve as a guide during the August 12 tour, recently reminisced about the rich history the landmark has in his family. His great-grandfather, William Follet, initially served as the first assistant at the Hog Shole Lighthouse off of Rhode Island and

then at the Montauk Lighthouse. Then, in 1916, Follet and his wife, Atta, relocated to the Cedar Island Lighthouse where he would serve as the lighthouse keeper "until it was decommissioned in

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1934," Allen explained. In 1923, they took in their two grandsons, William and Warren, for two years following their mother's unexpected death during childbirth. While they eventually moved back with their father, the children spent every

summer at the lighthouse with their grandparents.

"They would be in Rhode Island and school would finish on Friday for the summer and Saturday morning they would be on a boat to the lighthouse," Allen said. "They couldn't wait. They loved the lighthouse."

In 1974, vandals set the Cedar Island Lighthouse on fire. The granite was resistant to the flames and protected the structure from suffering external damage. While the roof and interior were destroyed, the roof has since been repaired. The Long Island Chapter of the US Lighthouse Society is collecting donations to raise funds "to rebuild the inside of the lighthouse so it's a duplicate of the way it looked when my great-grandparents were there," Allen explained.

Donations can be sent to the Long Island Chapter, US Lighthouse Society, attention Carol House, 29745 Main

Road, Cutchogue, NY 11935.

If the tide permits, the free tour of the Cedar Island Lighthouse will be held on Saturday, August 12 at 3:30 p.m. Allen will meet visitors at Cedar Point Park for his "going back in time tour," as he described it. Allen gives all visitors a commemorative postcard at the end of

each tour. Featuring a picture of the first lighthouse and the current lighthouse, the postcard is also autographed by Allen and given to each visitor as a piece of history. For more information on the tour, call 477-0594.