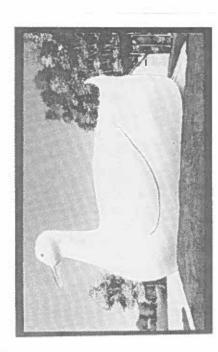
The Big Duck

isted on the National Register of **Historic Places**

AND BIG DUCK OF OF

Suffolk County, New York Route 24, Flanders



Since 1931

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Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Suffolk County

Division of Historic Services

THE BIG DUCK HISTOL YOF

hoped to sell the Peking ducks they raised to Tn 1931, Riverhead duck farmer Martin L struct a giant duck-shaped duck shop. They passing motorists who would surely be drawn to sioned this plan while vacationing in California where they are known to have visited a roadside Maurer and his wife Jeule decided to conthe striking form of a "big duck" along Riverhead's West Main Street. The Maurers envicoffee shop shaped like a giant coffee pot.

frame-work for the building. Construction of show set designers, brothers William and Samuel Collins. A live duck tied with a string to chicken in order to create a sturdy, bird-accurate Seeking local assistance, the Maurers hired carpenter George Reeve and two eccentric stage their porch served as a model for the Collins' design. Reeve studied the carcass of a cooked The Big Duck had begun!

Cement was applied to the wire mesh with the assistance of Smith and Yeager Builders. The Big Duck was painted a lovely bright white, save for the beak, of course, which was given its street-line orange color. The finishing touch was the placement of two Model-T taillights in The Big Duck's head for eyes that would glow red at night. The Big Duck in its entirety measures 30 wing to folded wing, and 20 feet from its base to the top of its head. As duck farms in the 1930's were commonly known as duck ranches, Martin feet from beak to perky tail, 15 feet from folded Maurer had his giant duck shop and business After The Big Duck's wooden frame had been pieced together, wire mesh was attached. trademarked as The Big Duck Ranch.

Ranch on West Main Street till 1936. The Maurers had sold quite a few ducks from their The Big Duck roosted at The Big Duck unique shop and decided to relocate, Big Duck and all, to Route 24 in Flanders. The Flanders

community welcomed The Big Duck wish open arms and have cherished it ever since.

Duck. The Big Duck's then current owners, Kia and Pouran Eshghi, generously donated The Big where The Big Duck rested was slated over joined Suffolk County and Friends for Long sland's Heritage in an effort to preserve The Big tinues to grow, steadily. When the land or development in 1987, Big Duck fans from all The Big Duck's popularity grew, and con Duck to Suffolk County in December of 1987.

inal resting place at the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park, a bit further east on Route 24 from its former nest. The Big Duck is now Peking duck merchandise, lovingly referred to as The Big Duck was moved to its current and open to the public as a gift shop operated by Friends for Long Island's Heritage. Unusual duck-a-bilia, along with other Long Island sperialties, now fills The Big Duck Store.

CONCRETE BIRD DRAWS ATTENTION TO

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The Big Duck, as it appeared in the Nov., 1932 issue of Popular Mechanics.

Friends for Long Island's Heritage P.O. Box 144 West Sayville, N.Y. 11796

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Duck Architecture World Famous

by added signage and Denise Scott Brown in 1968. Duck build are plain buildings whose functions are revealed to the more common "decorated sheds" which products or services available within, as opposed ings are highly sculptural forms which represent "duck," was coined by architects Robert Venturi roadside architecture. The architectural term, Long Island landmark, it has also hile The Big Duck is a well-known lent its name to a specific style of

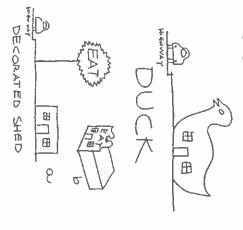


Illustration from Learning From Las Vegas, Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, M.I.T. Press,

other architectural ducks, the building itself is Duck has become the most famous example of to a purchase, ducks are fantastical while retainsentational advertisement. Designed to mesmerthe signage, a colossal, three-dimensional, repreing their purely practical intentions. The Big ize passing motorists and entice them ultimately With Suffolk County's Big Duck, as with

offer fantasy fails man's need to dream. tasy not function, for architecture that cannot D.D.T. - part of which states: "Form follows fan-Wines has proposed the Duck Design Theory -Another well-known architect named James

Long Isld I Duck Farms



splendid waterways when shelter was provided ducks. These ducks thrived on Long Island's of the snowy-white, orange-beaked Peking sailor traveled to China and returned with nine According to legend, in 1870, a Long Island them for the cold winters. How did the Peking duck get to Long Island?

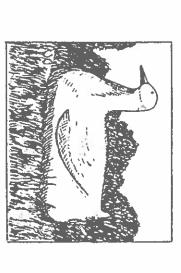
ducks by 1969. Today that figure has dropped to Sutfolk County, producing 60% of the nation's known as duck ranches, sprang up all over dent to Long Islanders. Duck farms, sometimes increased production costs, and environmental below 15% due to escalating land values, lent, its marketing potential soon became evi-As Peking duck meat was especially succu-

the world menu offering at the finest restaurants around Long Island duckling can still be found as a



Ser. No. 318,066, Martin R. Maurer, Riverhead, N. Y. Filed Aug. 17, 1931

The Big Duck Ranch



From The U.S. Patent Office Official Gazette, November, 1932, page 35.

Directions to The () Duck

come Visit

- ♦ From the L.I.E., exit 71, take Route 24 south entrance to Sears Bellows County Park. to The Big Duck on the right, at the Route 105 and continue 5 miles on Route 24 through the Riverhead traffic circle. Cross
- From Sunrise Highway, take exit 65N to The Big Duck, on the left. Riverhead, and travel 2 miles on Route 24



PRESERVATION FUND! THE BIG DUCK SUPPORT

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

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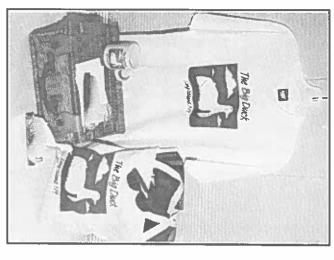
Great Photo Opportunities for All Come Take Your Picture With the Big Duck!

BIG DUCK ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTING -1st Wednesday after Thanksgiving

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information regarding L.I. travel and tourism. the official East End Visitors Center containing Visitors Bureau, The Big Duck will also serve as In cooperation with the L.I. Convention and

Duck Store



notecards, key chains, and much more! he Big Duck Store features the magnets, salt and pepper shakers items pictured above, plus,

For the Golfer:

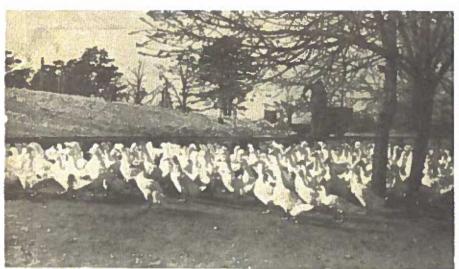
golf towels, all bearing The Big Duck 100% cotton golf shirts, golf hats, and

And . . . in the Long Island

calendars and Long Island seaside photography by local artists. ceramics, beach plum jelly, postcards Long Island Salt Water Taffy, souvening

The Story of our "Long Island Duckling"

Don't miss, also on this site, The History of Swift Stream Duck Farm, INC. Moriches, LI





C&R Duck Farm Westhampte

In 1873, a New York merchant named Ed McGrath had seen in China, while on a visit there, a white duck near Peking, so large he mistook it for a goose. McGrath (so the story goes) bought some duck eggs and had them hatched. He also asked James Palmer, either a sea-captain or a Connecticut merchant, to bring twenty-five ducks back to America, Palmer to receive half of the ducks in payment.

Four months later, nine pure white and succulently fat (the pride of Peking) ducks, the only survivors, landed in New York. Palmer delivered five ducks to the McGrath family, and without any instructions to the contrary, they were soon turned into a delicious dinner. The other four ducks which Palmer kept for his trouble were also taken to Connecticut but for breeding. These ducks took to the environment and quickly multiplied. These four ducks are the ancestors of today's long Island ducks, for it was soon found that long Island with its humid climate, abundance of running water and sandy soil was well suited to duck raising.

Of the transition to the Island, little is known. According to one historian, the Speonk and Eastport area was the starting point in 1885, and it had at one time the largest duck Farm in the world; A.J. Hallock's Atlantic Farm on Speonk River. This farm set a record of a quarter of a million ducks raised in a year. The hurricane of 1938 wiped it out.

The Peking duck lacks one instinct, it has little maternal feelings, but it is a good breeder. Usually a good duck lays 150 eggs in its laying span each year, and an important part of duck raising is determining which ducks to keep for breeders. Naturally one continually wants to improve the stock, so those which have a well placed eye, good shaped head and neck and a wide deep breast are kept for breeders. Previous to the introduction of the first incubators in 1890, "broody" hens had been in great demand at a dollar a head to hatch out these ducklings.



Four weeks are needed for a Peking duck to hatch. Many a housewife helped out her "pin-money" by having a setting hen hatch ducks at five cents apiece for her neighbors who were starting small duck farms. The incubators that replaced the "setting hen" were dangerous things as the heat was furnished by a kerosene heater and required almost constant watching for it was a fire hazard. Bloomers were heated the same way with kerosene lamps. Another job connected with these incubators was the turning of the eggs each day by hand. Today's huge incubators hold thousands of eggs and humidity is kept at a careful 50%, temperature a constant 99.5, and the eggs are turned automatically.

Some duck farms today only raise baby ducks. These ducklings are then sold to surrounding duck farms. This necessitates the keeping of many breeders throughout the year. Those in the know, if possible, used to buy breeder ducks for their own eating pleasure. These are not force fed and do not grow at such a rapid pace, so the meat is firmer and not so fat.

Many farmers got a few eggs and raised their own and fed them right along with the chickens. I remember when my grandfather had a duck farm, he gave my brother The Largest Duck Fatm in The World - abt 1910 Raised 23,000 Ducks a year at it's height eight baby ducks. They all grew up and they got to be pets. How my mother used to scold when they followed all the members of the family into her clean kitchen.

One instinct of Peking duck works to the growers advantage. It is a glutton: it will eat as much as is put before it. The first duck farms used fish as a primary food. Great kettles of them were cooked up and then mixed with cornmeal and bran. The young ducks went for this, devouring everything but the bones. Finally, the practice of feeding fish reached a point where the Commission merchants complained, the customers were rebelling. If they wanted fish, they would buy fish, but they didn't want "fishy" duck. After this all shipments of ducks carried a tag, "This duck guaranteed free from fish."

However feeding fish to young ducks did not come under this ban as they would outgrow any taint of fish as they matured. So, for a time, the feeding of fish and minnows for the real baby or unfeathered ducklings continued. As the industry grew, the feeding became more scientific, for no fowl or bird was ever catered to more, during its life span from incubator to marketing, than this duck.

When the industry developed enough to need a market for its product, ice was used to preserve the ducks which were packed in barrels for shipment to the neared by New York City market. Women and girls were hired to pick the ever growing number of ducks raised. Ones who were expert at picking duck feathers by hand Could earn \$5.00 a day. That was good money when carpenters were getting \$2.50 and farm hands \$1.00 to \$1.50 a day.

However, before the "ducked pluckers" were displaced by machines, the job became one of the lowest paid occupations in the State. The feathers picked were carefully dried as they were a further means of income. There were some years when the profit from the feathers meant the success or failure of the year's operation. Six ducks will produce a pound of feathers.

The time-honored comment often heard during a rain storm: "Good day for ducks" is false, for ducks are miserable in the rain. The last feathers to grow in are the ones covering its back, and these don't come in until the duck is two months old. In fact, very often the young duck that gets its back wet is soon a dead duck. Mother commented, "I've got a duck and he won't quack." The answer is self evident. It's a "he" and he'll never quack. Only females quack!

Another instinct which often works havoc with the ducks is his sense of fear, for they scare very easily. They will panic from a feather flying in front of them, or even by the sound of sudden den laughter, or any loud noise. Sea gulls drive them into a frenzy, so bad sometimes, that many drown. They drown, or they huddle in a corner and smother many of their mates. This huddling is what prompted owners to put lights, lit all night, in their pens. This helps and has saved many a duck from being smothered.

The firt duck farm in the Riverhead area was started by Asa Fordham in an old ramshackle building on what was to become known as the A. B - Soyars Duck Farm, located on Peconic River. In 1902. Mr. Soyars bought out Mr. Fordham and in 1903 had the farm in operation. In time it grew to be one of the larger duck farms. Mr. Soyars had gained his experience at the A.J. Hallock Ranch in Speonk where he worked for a time. He then went to Pennsylvania to manage a duck ranch there, but he soon came back to Long Island as he wished to have his own duck ranch. Dennis G. Homan, a few years later, started his duck ranch farther down on the Peconic River and it is said that Henry Corwin of Aquebogue started his ranch with 30 "breeders" in 1910.

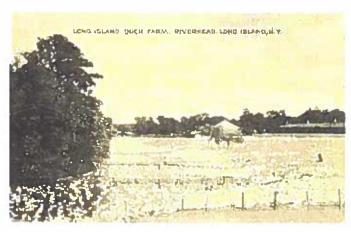
Ducks in those early years sold for around 14cents a pound and were considered in the luxury price range. Park & Tilford, the well known confectioners, at that time were in the food processing business. They bought the "cull" ducks for 7 cents a pound and canned ed them in a mushroom sauce and sold a small container for 65 cents. A food for a gourmet, no doubt.

Eastport Duck Farm

Duck farms or ranches (the two words are used interchangeably) continued to spring up until in the 1950's. Hollis V. Warner of Riverhead had the largest ranch in the world. He raised around 500,000 ducks a year. In fact by this time duck ranches could be found on practically all fresh water Streams in the area. Too many producers! By 1959 almost without exception, all lost money, and at the beginning of the 1960 season faced serious financial difficulties. Something had to be done.

Forty-four farmers formed in May 1960, the Long Island Duck Farmers Cooperative Inc., this to present a unified promotion and marketing program gram. They found they had 5,670,000 pounds of potential "roast duck" in storage. The assistance of the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets was procured. A full-scaled promotion campaign was launched and a survey was made, this survey showed that the sale of the Long Island Duck was national in scope, so all sales should be so directed.

To get the ducks to market in the most advantageous method possible the "Co-op" set up two processing plants, one in Eastport and one in Riverhead. These two plants process 40,000-50,000 flash frozen ducks for shipment a day. These are immediately carried to market in iced trucks. Ironically, some of these ducks find themselves all the way back to Hong Kong, where they are primarily used for soup.



That problem solved, the duck growers were faced with another, the excrement and fermenting food, from millions of ducks. All who have watched young ducks have seen them force down as much food as possible, run to the water, drink and lose some food, then rush back to the feeding station, again and again. All the streams became badly polluted, then flowed into the bays and they in turn became polluted, ruining them for bathing and fishing. The demand for clean water became so strong, the State set up certain restrictions that had to be met. Many small ranches had to fold up. The restrictions must be doing the trick, as the various waters are becoming cleaner.

The following appeared in a publication published by Suffolk County in the early 1930's:

The story of duck growing in Suffolk County dates back to about 1890, when a boy fisherman at Eastport set a nest full of peking duck eggs under a brooding hen. The hatch was successful and the experiment duplicated, though the parent hen held her downy golden duckling crop in dubious esteem. Raised on a diet of field greens and cooked fish, and allowed to run in a pen placed beside a private stream, the ducklings developed rapidly and within three months were shipped alive to a virgin market. The idea of this new industry had logic and was taken up on a small scale by other south shore farmers and baymen having a pond or stream on their premises. These men for some time continued in their former pursuits, entrusting to the care of their helping wives the raising of ducklings to augment the family income.

Diligently, and with a canny foresight which has marked the forward progress of all Suffolk County's important industries, the habits and diet of the duckling was studied and improved upon A tender meat of full rare flavor was eventually produced, precipitating a craze for Long Island ducklings which just prior to the out break of the World War swept across the country. To meet the resultant sharp increase in demand for this distinctive delicacy literally multitudes of new duck farms sprang into being, principally in the Moriches, Eastport and Riverhead districts.

Approximately six million ducklings are now produced annually on the ninety odd farms, or ranches, located throughout the County. From this source also comes yearly four to five hundred tons of feathers, a valuable by product. At least two banks in the more concentrated producing areas are functioning mainly on the turnover of revenues from Suffolk's duck industry, and the prosperity of certain communities is perpetuated by reason of the employment it offers both men and women.

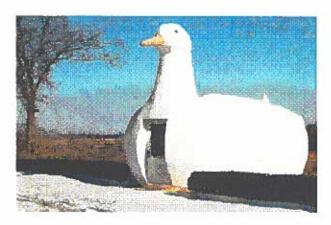
Not less than 4,000 carloads of scientifically mixed foods consisting of grains, cod liver oil, meat and milk ingredients are consumed each year by Suffolk County's ducklings. These are balanced with a variety of green field crops to obtain an ideal ration. Huge modern all-electric incubation systems common on the larger ranches has stepped up the production on some of these operations to an output of 250,000 ducklings annually. During the growing period, scientifically gauged to from ten to twelve weeks, each duckling will consume an amount of food approximating five times its market weight of from five to seven pounds. Complete sanitation, utterly essential to the life of the duckling, is stressed throughout every phase of duck raising in Suffolk County. Strong floodlights are burned at night to make the duckling's life one of perennial daylight, thus preventing panic which the slightest noise in the dark will create among the flocks.

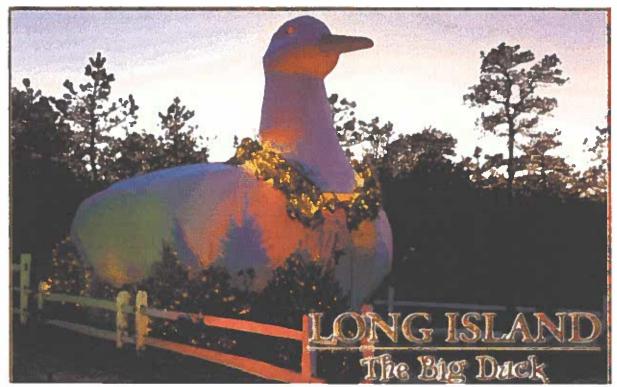
What transpires within a modern incubator on the twenty-eighth day after the duckling eggs have

been placed for hatching is one of nature's phenomena. A slight rocking of an egg here and there among the hundreds stacked uniformly on racks foretells the first stir in the duckling's life. Within a few moments the porous shell will have broken before the pressure of a feeble body, after which the new-born duckling will extricate itself and rest, quizzically, gaining an amazing vitality while almost with perfect timing the other eggs will break, transforming the trays within a few hours into a maze of pale gold life. The ducklings are next placed in heated brooder houses, kept there from two to six weeks depending on the season, and finally moved into pens on the stream, where they are developed for market.

Hygienically killed, picked and chilled at the ranch, the ducklings are then trucked to the markets in adequately iced barrels, or put through a recently developed quick freezing process whereby all their delicate and superlative flavor is retained. For quick-freezing the chilled duckling carcasses are sped from the nearby ranches to a modern eviscerating plant at Eastport. Where, under the watchful eyes of a U. S. government inspector they are dressed, quick- frozen, and individually wrapped in cellophane for shipment; or, by another method of quick- freeze packing accomplished in a costly plant maintained at Riverhead, the duckling carcasses are subjected to a brine spray under a sub-zero temperature until they have obtained a completely frozen state, when they are rinsed in clear ice water and packed in attractive cartons containing twelve each. Then, less than six hours after being slaughtered at the ranch, they are ready to be loaded into refrigerated trucks and sent on to supply an ever-receptive world market!

"The Big Duck"





Located in the Sears-Bellows Pond County Park, just off the Riverhead-Hampton Bays Road. The Duck was built in 1930-1931 and was originally used as a retail outlet selling Long Island Duckling. Every December the Big Duck is decorated for the holiday season.

The following article appeared in Newsday on May 26, 1995
Written By Rick Brand STAFF WRITER (Newsday) Copyright © Newsday, Inc.

Fresh from a tail tuck and internal surgery, Long Island's Big Duck reopens tomorrow to do what it always has done best - sell itself. Move over Disney Store, watch out Opryland. Make way for designer duck.

Admittedly, the first step, er waddle, is small. But it may foreshadow a big step for Long Island - a theme park dedicated to roadside art. For now, the Big Duck - built in the 1930s by a Depression-struck farmer to sell fresh duck and duck eggs to motorists - will reach out to the passing public with a gift shop and a small museum. It will sell a full line of Big Duck clothes and souvenirs - from golf shirts to umbrellas complete with duck beaks. It will also include a mini-exhibit of duck, highway and roadside architecture history.

Loudspeakers will beguile passersby with a two-hour long mix of music and news commentary from 1931 to 1939 along with Christie Brinkley's narration of Big Duck history. The idea is not only to take on the marketing gimmicks of retailing outlets like the Disney Store but also to re-create the atmosphere of picnic parks, places where Long Island families used to take family drives.

And to do it in the spirit of roadside art, once scorned by architectural purists as trash, but more recently praised for its celebration of fantasy.

"I think people are taken by the whimsy of it," said Jerry Kessler, president of the Friends for Long Island Heritage. He also said in some cases the appeal is more direct. "When I was a kid, I remember sitting in the back of my grandmother's 1929 Nash and going for a Sunday drive," said Kessler, now in his sixties. "Seeing the Big Duck was a great thrill for a seven or eight-year-old."

Long-range, the county and Friends for Long Island's Heritage envision a park of roadside art and other motoring artifacts including neon signs, old-fashioned gas pumps and perhaps even a diner. But officials say that given the county government's ongoing financing problems, such grand plans are five to 10 years away and \$200,000 to \$300,000 beyond their current means.

For the moment, even getting the duck spruced up for the '90s was a larger than expected

chore. Although the duck only had to move 40 feet from its temporary quarters at Sears Bellows Park on Route 24 in Flanders, parks officials say the cost of primping the 20-foot-high water fowl for its reopening went three times beyond its \$10,000 budget - causing an unexpected drain on the Friends, who are the duck's main support.

"It's coming out beautifully," said Lance Mallamo, Suffolk's director of historic services. "But as we started working, we found out there was more work than we bargained for."

Because the duck is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it had to be reconstructed in a way that was faithful to its original design. Restorers for example had to put down a tongue-and-grove pine flooring, and replicate tin walls of the original duck.

In the process, they also expanded the duck's wood framing to bolster its sagging haunches, increase structural strength and cut down on cracks. And they also had to re-stucco the bird's exterior.

To celebrate tomorrow's reopening, parks officials are baking their own sculpted duck cake, children from Phillips Avenue School in Riverhead will sing several new duck songs and relatives of the forward-thinking pioneers who helped build the world-famed duck will be in attendance.

They will all celebrate the idea first hatched in 1931 by Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer, who got his inspiration when he stopped at a roadside coffee shop shaped like a pot while on vacation in California.

Maurer hired local carpenter George Reeve, who employed two stage show set designers, William and Sam Collins, to build the duck. As models, they used a a cooked chicken carcass and a live duck tied with a string to a perch. The done duck was lit with the taillights of a Model T Ford placed in its eyes.

At its first opening, the Big Duck was pictured in Popular Mechanics magazine. The Atlas Cement Co., whose product was used in construction, made the duck a pinup in its annual calendar and dubbed it "The Most Spectacular Piece of Cement Work in 1931."

The first site of the 16,500-pound duck was on West Main Street in Riverhead, but in 1936, it was moved about four miles east to Flanders Road, about two miles up from its current location. Through the years, the duck remained in use as a stand for duck farm produce. In 1987, owners Kia Eshghi and his wife Pouran sold the land on which it stood and donated the duck to Suffolk County. It was moved to Sears Bellows in December, 1987.

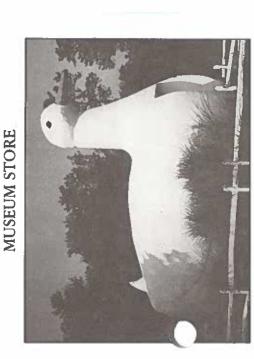
Since then, the duck's only activity has been as a model. It has been the subject of cover art for a 1987 edition of New Yorker magazine and a sketch now on display at Guild Hall, both by renowned East End artist Saul Steinberg.

Officials say the newly-reopened duck and its shop will operate seven days a week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day and perhaps on weekends into the fall.

County historical officials are also hoping that the duck's reopening will spur a new outpouring of duck lore and memorabilia. Richard Martin, Suffolk's assistant director of historic services, said that one idea is to compile an oral history of duck recollections. "For many visiting the Hamptons," said Martin, "the duck was a sign we're almost there."

Meanwhile, Kessler said he hopes the reopening will spur new contributions to fund-raising efforts and ensure that tomorrow's small waddle for the duck is a big step for Long Island.

BIG DUCK



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CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
INFORMATION CENTER

Directions to the Big Duck

From Tanger. Go east on Rt. 25 to Riverhead.

Turn right on Peconic Ave. At traffic circle take
Rt. 24 to Flanders. The Big Duck is on the right
just a few minutes on Rt. 24

Open weekends until Memorial Day, then 7 days - 10-5 through Labor Day, then weekends through Dec. 24

(516) 852-8292

HISTORY OF THE BIG DUCK

In 1931, Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer and his wife Jeule decided to construct a giant duck-shaped duck shop. They hoped to sell the Peking ducks they raised to passing motorists who would surely be drawn to the striking form of a "big duck" along Riverhead's West Main Street.

Seeking local assistance, the Maurers hired carpenter George Reeve and two eccentric stage show set designers, brothers William and Samuel Collins. A live duck tied with a string to their porch served as a model for the Collins' design.

After The Big Duck's wooden frame had been pieced together, wire mesh was attached. Cement was applied to the wire mesh. The Big Duck was painted a lobright white, save for the beak, of course, which given its street-line orange color. The finishing touch was the placement of two Model-T taillights in The Big Duck's head for eyes that would glow red at night. The Big Duck in its entirety measures 30 feet from beak to perky tail, 15 feet from folded wing to folded wing, and 20 feet from its base to the top of its head.

The Big Duck roosted at The Big Duck Ranch on West Main Street till 1936. The Maurers decided to relocate, Big Duck and all, to Route 24 in Flanders.

When the land where The Big Duck rested was slated for development in 1987, Big Duck fans from all over joined Suffolk County and Friends for Long Island's Heritage in an effort to preserve The Big Duck. The Big Duck's then current owners, Kia and Pouran Eshghi, generously donated The Big Duck to Suffolk County in December of 1987.

The Big Duck was moved to its current and final resting place at the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park. The Big Duck is now open to the public as a museum shop operated by Friends for Long Island's Heritage. Unusual Peking duck merchandise, lovingly referred to as duck-a-bilia, along with other Long Island specialties, now fills The Big Duck Store.

The Big Duck is an historic site owned by th

County of Suffolk

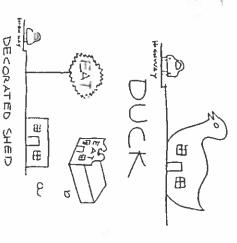
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A not for profit organization

Duck Architecture World Famous

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Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, M.I.T. Press Illustration from Learning From Las Vegas, Robert Vention

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D.D.T. - part of which states: "Form follows fan Wines has proposed the Duck Design Theory rasy not function, for architecture that canno Another well-known architect named James

Long Island Duck Farms



splendid waterways when shelter was provided ducks. These ducks thrived on Long Island's of the snowy-white, orange-beaked Peking sailor traveled to China and returned with nine them for the cold winters. According to legend, in 1870, a Long Island How did the Peking duck get to Long Island

increased production costs, and environmental below 15% due to escalating land values, ducks by 1969. Today that figure has dropped to Suffolk County, producing 60% of the nation's dent to Long Islanders. Duck farms, sometimes known as duck ranches, sprang up all over lent, its marketing potential soon became evi-As Peking duck meat was especially succu-

the world menu offering at the finest restaurants around Long Island duckling can still be found as a



The Big Duck Ranch



From The U.S. Patient Office Official Garage Vincember 1937 Ages 15

Directions to The Big Duck

- From the L.I.E., exit 71, take Route 24 south entrance to Sears Bellows County Park. to The Big Duck on the right, at the Route 105 and continue 5 miles on Route 24 through the Riverhead traffic circle. Cross
- **<** From Sunrise Highway, take exit 65N to The Big Duck, on the left. Riverhead, and travel 2 miles on Route 24

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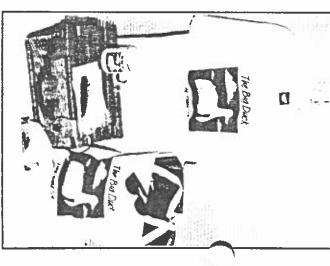
Come Take Your Picture With The Big Duck! **\$\$\$\$**

information regarding L.L. travel and tourism. In cooperation with the L.I. Convention and the official East End Visitors Center containing Visitors Bureau, The Big Duck will also serve as

Duck Store

The Big

Come Visit



much more! pepper shakers, notecards, key chains, and he Big Duck Store features the items pictured above, plus, Big Duck umbrellas, magnets, salt and

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Suffolk County, New York Route 24, Flanders



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Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Suffolk County Executive

Suffolk County

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Friends for Long Island's Heritage

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noped to sell the Peking ducks they raised to rn 1931, Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer and his wife Jeule decided to con-L struct a giant duck-shaped duck shop. They passing motorists who would surely be drawn to he striking form of a "big duck" along Rivernead's West Main Street. The Maurers enviioned this plan while vacationing in California where they are known to have visited a roadside coffee shop shaped like a giant coffee pot.

samuel Collins. A live duck tied with a string to heir porch served as a model for the Collins' lesign. Reeve studied the carcass of a cooked chicken in order to create a sturdy, bird-accurate rame-work for the building. Construction of Seeking local assistance, the Maurers hired carpenter George Reeve and two eccentric stage show set designers, brothers William and The Big Duck had begun!

Cement was applied to the wire mesh with the assistance of Smith and Yeager Builders. The Big Duck was painted a lovely bright white, save or the beak, of course, which was given its street-line orange color. The finishing touch was the placement of two Model-T taillights in The Big Duck's head for eyes that would glow red at night. The Big Duck in its entirety measures 30 feet from beak to perky tail, 15 feet from folded wing to folded wing, and 20 feet from its base to were commonly known as duck ranches, Martin he top of its head. As duck farms in the 1930's Maurer had his giant duck shop and business After The Big Duck's wooden frame had been pieced together, wire mesh was attached

Sanch on West Main Street till 1936. The The Big Duck roosted at The Big Duck rademarked as The Big Duck Ranch.

Maurers had sold quite a few ducks from their inique shop and decided to relocate. Big Duck

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THE BIG DUCK HISTORY OF

community welcomed The Big Duck with open

arms and have cherished it ever since.

Duck. The Big Duck's then current owners, Kia where The Big Duck rested was slated Island's Heritage in an effort to preserve The Big and Pouran Eshghi, generously donated The Big tinues to grow, steadily. When the land for development in 1987, Big Duck fans from all over joined Suffolk County and Friends for Long The Big Duck's popularity grew, and con-Duck to Suffolk County in December of 1987.

final resting place at the entrance to Sears The Big Duck was moved to its current and Bellows County Park, a bit further east on Route Peking duck merchandise, lovingly referred to as open to the public as a gift shop operat Friends for Long Island's Heritage. Unusual duck-a-bilia, along with other Long Island spe-24 from its former nest. The Big Duck is cialties, now fills The Big Duck Store.

CONCRETE BIRD DRAWS ATTENTION TO DUCK FARM

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The Big Duck, as it appeared in the Nov., 1932 issue of

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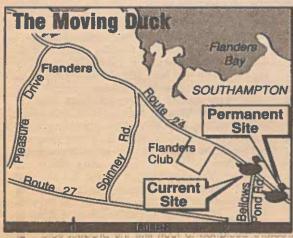
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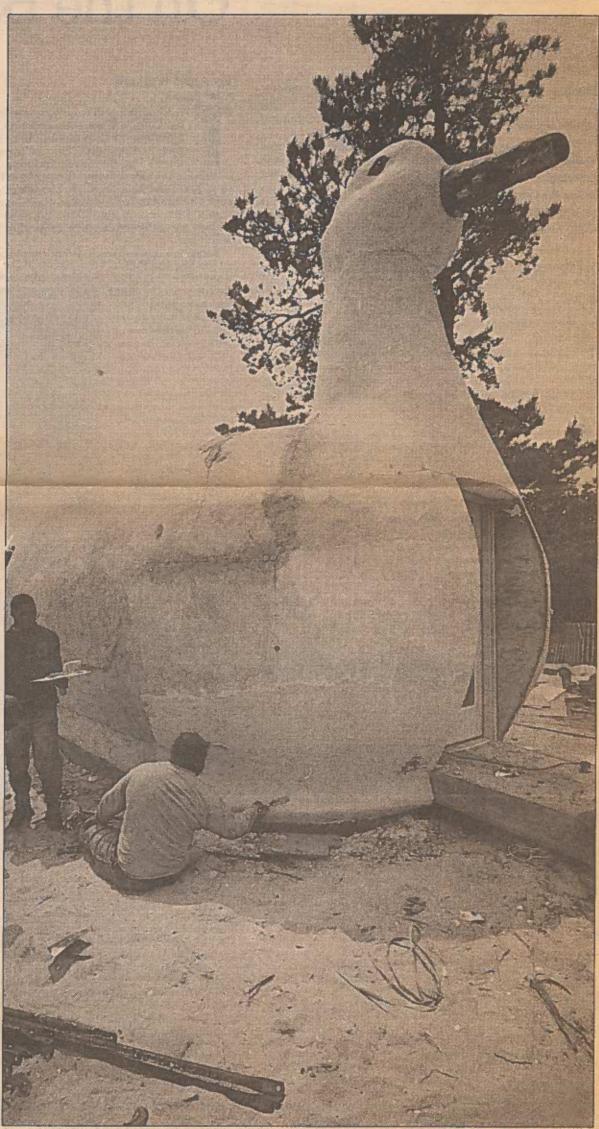
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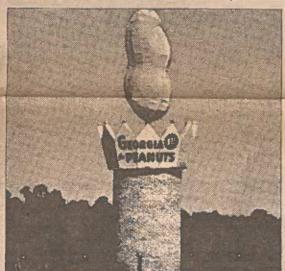
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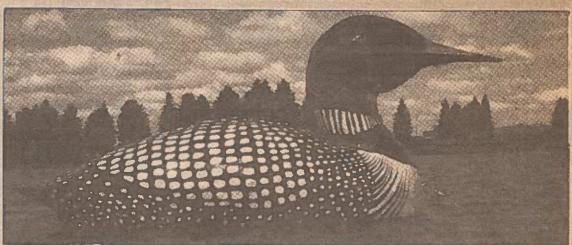


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1936: The duck migrated from its first site along West Main Street in Riverhead to a nesting place about 4 miles east along Flanders Road, where it remained for half a century.

1931: The duck was hatched as a Riverhead farmstand where ducks and duck eggs were sold. It gave rise to the use of the term duck, which signifies a structure designed to look like the product sold by / Tom Redutirmort



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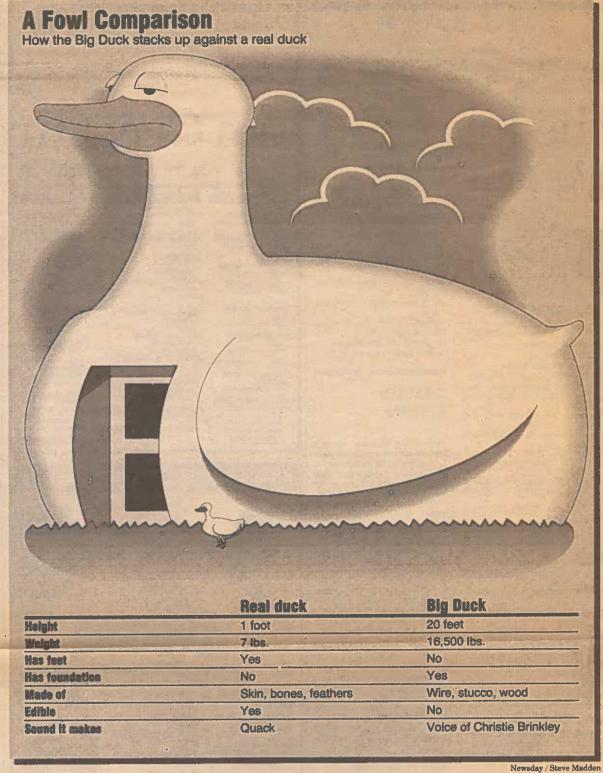
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THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD COMPANY



Duck Preens for Attention

BIG DUCK from Page 61

three times beyond its \$10,000 budget — causing an unexpected drain on the Friends, who are the duck's main support.

"It's coming out beautifully," said Lance Mallamo, Suffolk's director of historic services. "But as we started working, we found out there was more work than we bargained for.'

Because the duck is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it had to be reconstructed in a way that was faithful to its original design. Restorers for example had to put down a tongue-and-grove pine flooring, and replicate tin walls of the original duck.

In the process, they also expanded the duck's wood framing to bolster its sagging haunches, increase structural strength and cut down on cracks. And they also had to re-stucco the bird's exterior.

To celebrate tomorrow's reopening, parks officials are baking their own sculpted duck cake, children from Phillips Avenue School in Riverhead will sing several new duck songs and relatives of the forwardthinking pioneers who helped build the world-famed duck will be in attendance.

They will all celebrate the idea first hatched in 1931 by Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer, who got his inspiration when he stopped at a roadside coffee shop shaped like a pot while on vacation in California.

Maurer hired local carpenter George Reeve, who employed two stage show set designers, William and Sam Collins, to build the duck. As models, they used a a cooked chicken carcass and a live duck tied with a estring to a perch. The done duck was lit with the talkingha of a Model Thord placed in the eyes much light At its first opening, the Big Duck was pictured in Popular Mechanics magazine. The Atlas Cement Co., whose product was used in construction, made the duck a pinup in its annual calendar and dubbed it "The Most Spectacular Piece of Cement Work in 1931."

The first site of the 16,500-pound duck was on West Main Street in Riverhead, but in 1936, it was moved about four miles east to Flanders Road, about two miles up from its current location. Through the years, the duck remained in use as a stand for duck farm produce. In 1987, owners Kia Eshghi and his wife Pouran sold the land on which it stood and donated the duck to Suffolk County. It was moved to Sears Bellows in December, 1987.

Since then, the duck's only activity has been as a model. It has been the subject of cover art for a 1987 edition of New Yorker magazine and a sketch now on display at Guild Hall, both by renowned East End artist Saul Steinberg.

Officials say the newly-reopened duck and its shop will operate seven days a week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day and perhaps on weekends into the fall.

County historical officials are also hoping that the duck's reopening will spur a new outpouring of duck lore and memorabilia. Richard Martin, Suffolk's assistant director of historic services, said that one idea is to compile an oral history of duck recollections. "For many visiting the Hamptons," said Martin, "The duck was a sign we're almost there."

Meanwhile, Kessler said he hopes the reopening will spur new contributions to fund-raising efforts and ensure that tomorrow's small waddle for the tame when you watch the shakla gnot rol quit gid a a whon erpieces of the show, McMillan and Halpin are

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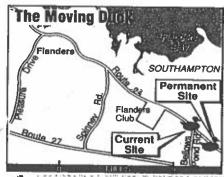
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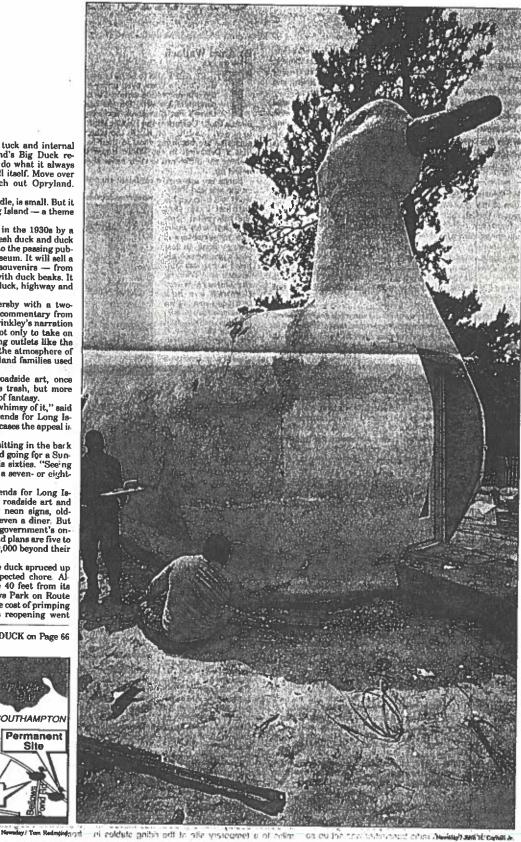
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By Adam Z. Horvath

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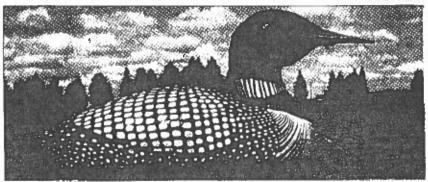
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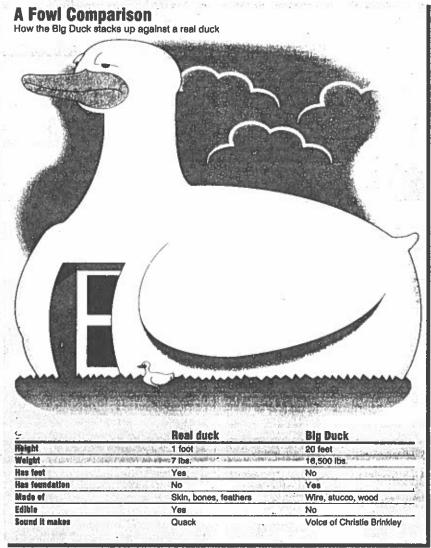
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August, 1989: The Big Duck acquired a frame of flowers and grass thanks to a part-time landscaper who provided the ornamental setting in an effort to make the area as homey as possible for the whitestucco waterfowl.

January, 1988: The owners of the land on which the Big Duck stood sold the land and donated the duck to Suffolk County. The Big Duck was moved 4.7 miles to a temporary site at the riding stables in Sears Bellows County Park.

1936: The duck migrated from its first site along West Main Street in Riverhead to a nesting place about 4 miles east along Flanders Road, where it remained for half a century.

1931: The duck was hatched as a Riverhead farmstand where ducks and duck eggs were sold. It gave rise to the use of the term duck, which signifies a structure designed to look like the product sold



Duck Preens for Attention

BIG DUCK from Page 61

three times beyond its \$10,000 budget — causing an unexpected drain on the Friends, who are the duck's main support.

"It's coming out beautifully," said Lance Mallamo, Suffolk's director of historic services. "But as we started working, we found out there was more work than we bargained for.

Because the duck is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it had to be reconstructed in a way that was faithful to its original design. Restorers for example had to put down a tongue-and-grove pine

flooring, and replicate tin walls of the original duck.

In the process, they also expanded the duck's wood framing to bolster its sagging haunches, increase structural strength and cut down on cracks. And they also had to re-stucco the bird's exterior.

also had to re-stucco the bird's exterior.

To celebrate tomorrow's reopening, parks officials are baking their own sculpted duck cake, children from Phillips Avenue School in Riverhead will sing several new duck songs and relatives of the forwardthinking pioneers who helped build the world-famed duck will be in attendance.

They will all celebrate the idea first hatched in 1931 by Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer, who got his inspiration when he stopped at a roadside coffee shop shaped like a pot while on vacation in California

Maurer hired local carpenter George Reeve, who employed two stage show set designers, William and Sam Collins, to build the duck. As models, they used a a cooked chicken carcass and a live duck tied with a string to a perch. The done duck was it with the willinghts of a Model of Ford placed in its eyes. At its first opening, the Big Duck was pictured in Popular Mechanics magazine, The Atlas Cement Co., whose product was used in construction, made the duck a pinup in its annual calendar and dubbed it "The Most Spectacular Piece of Cement Work in

The first site of the 16,500-pound duck was on West Main Street in Riverhead, but in 1936, it was moved about four miles east to Flanders Road, about two miles up from its current location. Through the years, the duck remained in use as a stand for duck farm produce. In 1987, owners Kia Eshghi and his wife Pouran sold the land on which it stood and donated the duck to Suffolk County. It was moved to Sears Bellows in December, 1987.

Since then, the duck's only activity has been as a model. It has been the subject of cover art for a 1987 edition of New Yorker magazine and a sketch now on display at Guild Hall, both by renowned East End artist Saul Steinberg.

Officials say the newly reopened duck and its shop

will operate seven days a week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day and perhaps on week ends into the fall.

County historical officials are also hoping that the duck's reopening will spur a new outpouring of duck lore and memorabilia. Richard Martin, Suffolk's as-sistant director of historic services, said that one idea

sistant director of historic services, said that one idea is to compile an oral history of duck recollections. "For many visiting the Hamptons," said Martin, "The duck was a sign we're almost there."

Meanwhile, Kessler said he hopes the reopening will spur new contributions to fund-raising efforts and ensure that tomorrow's small waddle for the duck is a big step for Long Island. "It dollars may rent went to make the property of the sand contributions of the sand contributions of the sand contributions of the sand contributions."

Getting the Big Duck Some National Kudos

HE BIG DUCK in Suffolk has been a favorite piece of roadside kitsch for 65 years. Now, the 20-foot-tall duck may waddle its

way to more notoriety by earning a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

The concrete waterfowl is already an icon to flocks of people worldwide, even without federal government recognition.

Its image adorns postcards in Kuwait and a poster in a British diner. Its body is laced with holiday lights each winter. And visitors just keep coming: Since July 1, the duck building in Flanders has drawn spectators

1, the duck building in Flanders has drawn spectators from Israel to Ohio.

"It's a landmark," said George Winslow of Greenfield, Mass., who spent part of his vacation Tuesday in the duck's belly gift shop. "We always stop here.'

Suffolk County Historian Lance Mallamo is pushing to get the Big Duck some formal kudos. He will present the needed historical paperwork in August to the state Office of Historic Preservation, which will deem the duck deserving, or not, of a spot on the state Ravister.

After that, a federal nomination will be pursued: The National Register office must decide within 45 days of receiving a request.

Suffolk residents are proud as a peacock of the coun-

Sulfolk residents are proud as a peacock of the county-owned duck, the guardian of traffic on Route 24. "Everyone really loves it because it's so special," said Jacqueline Walker, manager of the gift shop in the duck's belly. "There really is no other duck building all over the world."

The duck was built in the '30s to house — you guessed it — a ducks-for-sale business. Today, it is not the reagents. It is the novelty of walking.

popular for other reasons. It is the novelty of walking inside the belly of a duck, or snapping photographs with a fowl as tall as a telephone pole, that attracts

Some of those who drop by want to show their kids. Others are recapturing moments from youth, when spotting the duck meant the drive to the East End

beaches was nearing an end.
"I think everyone who goes out east on summer vacation has stopped to take a picture in front of it," Mallamo said.

The duck is one of America's preeminent examples of roadside architecture. It is the namesake for "duck architecture," a style in which a building's appearance mimics its use.

The building is even known in the Ivy Leagues: It was mentioned by name in architecture classes at Harvard, recalled Nancy Fen-

ner of Remsenburg, who stopped inside the duck this week with West Coast relatives.

Long Island's duck-farming heritage is impressive. Four to five million ducks waddled annually around more than a hun-

dred duck farms on the East End in the 1940s, bound for restaurants. Four duck farms remain.
In 1931, Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer

and his wife, Jeule, decided to build the giant duck-shaped shop on West Main Street in Riverhead. They wanted to sell their Peking ducks to motorists and needed a way to attract the attention of passing drivers. The duck was born of a wooden frame bound by wire mesh and cement. It was painted white and giv-en an orange beak, upturned tail and glowing Model-T taillights as eyes

Passersby couldn't resist.
"Even if they didn't want to buy a duck, more often
than not, they left with a frozen duck under their
arms," Mallamo said.
Popularity alone does not a landmark make, how-

It must meet at least one of four criteria to be listed on the National Register, a federal list of nearly 66,000 properties. The duck is sure to qualify for at least two, Mallamo said: It is associated with significant past events and is an important example of architecture. The duck is already on the color, landmark list, known as the Historic Tribit.



Newsday / Thomas R. Koeniges Suffolk County Historian Lance Mallamo is pushing to get the Blg Duck listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One potential hurdle the duck faces is that it was

moved several times.

"It's problematical when a building gets moved off its original site," said Pete Shaver, program analyst for the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany. "It likely still qualifies, it just has to be looked at again."

The dust procted at the Rig Duck Ranch on West.

The duck roosted at the Big Duck Ranch on West Main Street in Riverhead until 1936, when it and the ranch were moved to Route 24 in Flanders. In 1987. the then-owners donated the Big Duck to Suffolk County, and it was moved to the entrance of Sears Bellows County Park riding stable, where it sits in front of dozens of indifferent

horses.

The Talk Of

FLANDERS

Being on the National Register would make the duck eligible for grant funds, and offer it protection from development.

The duck - which has fielded its share of ridicule over the

 would also get more respect. "Mostly, it gets you recognition that the propert[is significant in our history," said Marilyn Harper, his-torian for the National Register of Historic Places.

Roadside architecture is no stranger to the federal list, Harper said. The Benewah milk bottle in Wash-

ington State, which houses a dairy bar, is an example.
While there is no one apparently lighting to prevent the duck from joining this unique lineup, there are those who are uncertain if they would want county money spent on it.

The duck is now kept affoat by donations and profits from the gift shop, which is run by Friends for Long Island Heritage. The county would be reponsi-ble for upkeep should contributions run dry.

"Some people, if they're on limited income, they can't afford anything," said Mary Moreo of Hampton

But summer resident Fenner said the benefits would far outweigh the costs.

"I don't think it would be that extravagant for the county to do it," she said. "It's really a piece of Long Island heritage."

GREENLAWN /

Greek Archbishop Visits

The Greek Orthodox archbishop for Americas visited Greenlawn last week the end of his career and underscore (increase in attendance at the local chi

Thirty-five priests and more than I people from the tri-state area, some s onto the lawn, flooded Saint Parasker Greek Orthodox Church to listen to A lakovos conduct the vespers for the a feast in honor of the parish's patron :

lakovos, who recently retired after years as archbishop and a quarter-cer priest, brought a vial of water from a Turkish spring believed to contain the inducing waters of Paraskevi, a mart saint known for healing blindness.

The archbishop also recognized the pastor, John Heropoulos, whom many with doubling the attendance in the I year at the church, one of 13 Greek C churches on Long Island.

— Laura Sm

LAKE GROVE / Parks Get Makeovers

Lake Grove is rebuilding its parks constructing a community center in t acquired Pond Path Park

Reconstruction recently began at Metzner Park, where new play equip be built to facilitate supervision by pr The basketball court will be moved a neighboring homes, and a new tennis

will be built in its place.

Scott Middleton, parks commission a village trustee, said similar results. be made at the remaining Kell Pond Path Parks. The new Pond of eight-acre plot of land recently deede Lake Grove, will include a center and for use by the community. Village residents currently use the

Culture Center at the village meeting meetings of senior citizens, Boy Scou for other activities, though Middletor facility is "really too small

The project is being paid for with p fund money, and Middleton said the renovations will have no effect on res

SAG HARBOR /

Caldicott Speaks on Nul

Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, organization of doctors concerned ab effects of nuclear technology on hum will speak at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 12 at St. Andrews Church in Sag Harbor. The sponsored by Fish Unlimited, a fishe: conservation organization that's base Shelter Island.

Caldicott will address the health hi of two nuclear reactors at Brookhave National Laboratory and three at Mi Conn. The Millstone reactors current shut due to safety problems.

Caldicott hopes that her speech will garner support in the Hamptons to fi permanent closing of Brookhaven an Millstone, both within 20 miles of he Hampton home, where she moved ab

months ago.
"We are dealing with a technology unforgiving," Caldicott said, "in whi can be no human fallibility, and that possible." Caldicott fears that mechanical failure could lead 💵 disaster on Long Island.

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— Libt

Toomey Out, DPW Gets A Consultant

By Timothy M. Motz Westhampton Beach labor attorney Vincent Toomey was fired by the vil-lage Board of Trustees in a 3-2 vote at a special meeting on Monday at which the board also incensed laborers of the village Department of Public Works by hiring a "consulting superintendent" for the department without their input.

Mr. Toomey, who has been the West-hampton Beach labor attorney for the past five years, was replaced by the firm Ingerman Smith of Northport, which had held the position prior to Mr. Toomey. Voting on both resolutions went along party lines, with Moniebogue Party members Mayor Bartley Wilenski, trustees James Czachur and Thomas Pescod witing "wes" and Thomas Pescod voting "yes" and Ketchaboneck Party trustees Mark Raynor and Ridgle Barnett voting "no."

Moniebogue Party Trustees declined all comment on Mr. Toomey's firing, and Mr. Toomey was on vacation and unavailable for comment. But Westhampton Beach Police Benevolent Association President Fred Hager said the PBA wondered if Mr. Toomey's firing was somehow related to the pending filing of disciplinary charges against village police officer Thomas Verbeeck. who last week was suspended by Police Chief Conrad Teller for the second time in six months. Mr. Hager said a new labor counsel hand-picked by the Moniebogue Party members would have the opportunity to do their bidding in resolving the Verbeeck situation, Mr. Hager last week claimed that Mr. Verbeeck is a close acquaintance of Mr. Czachur, which Mr. Czachur denied.

"We are concerned the untimely firing of Vincent Toomey will further de-lay any action in the Verbeeck matter," Mr. Hager said in a statement he said represented the feelings of the majority of the PBA's members. "We hope that the cause for the village's separation from their labor counsel of 10 years is not to solicit another attorney who will simply rubber-stamp the Monlebogue Party Board members' desire to rein-(Continued on Page 22)

Two Trustees Say They're Excluded

By Timothy M. Motz

The Moniebogue Party ran for and won the control of the Westhampton Beach Board of Trustees last June promising open government. But in the minds of the two trustees who are members of the minority Ketchaboneck Parly, the first six months of Moniebogue P

rule have been anything but open.
In a letter to the editor declaring their candidacy for reelection in the village elections this June, Ketcha-boneck Party Trustees Mark Raynor and Ridgle Barnett blast their fellow trustees on several fronts, saying that since the Moniebogue Party—Mayor Bartley Wilenski and Trustees Thomas Pescod and James Czachur—took over they have been virtually excluded from participation in village government

The final blow, according to Mr.
Raynor, came on Monday when Mrs.
Barnett and Mr. Raynor said they were
asked to sign a "Confidentiality Agreement" which would prohibit them from discussing any village matters brought up in executive session or included in any confidential documents with anyone except their fellow trustees. Village Clerk Kathleen McGinnis, Village At-

(Continued on Page 22)



A flock of Flanders residents turned out in front of the Big Duck on Route 24 last Sunday to protest the elimination of the name of Flanders from the tourist attraction's

Residents of Flanders Want **Duck's Heritage Recognized**

By Albert S. Coppola

If you stop in at the Big Duck on Flanders-Riverhead Road, you'll be hard-pressed to find anything there to associate it with Flanders, the community that has been home to the goof-ball tourist attraction since 1934.

There's no shortage of ducks. Duck mugs. Duck T-shirts. Duck paperweights. Duck postcards. Silk duck ties. There's plenty of so-called "duck-a-billa." The only trouble is, most all of it identifies the home of the Big Duck as simply "Long Island, NY."

This has ruffled some feathers in Flanders. Some residents are so dis-gruntled that they have mounted a writein campaign to the Syosset-based organization that operates the museum store located in the belly of the Big Duck, asking that they reinstate Flanders in its advertising and merchandising

At stake is ownership of one very big

"It's all we have left," said Kathy Kruel, attempting to explain the signifi-cance to her community of the 20-foottall concrete and steel duck-shaped kiosk. The Flanders area has some of the highest rates of crime, drug activity and prostitution in Southampton Town.

"The reason [for the campaign] is a sense of pride here," added Mary Anne Corwin. "You can go into a Borders (book store) up-island and pick up a postcard that says 'Big Duck, Long Island, NY' and it says nothing about Flanders. It's disheartening at a time

when we're trying to revitalize the area."

She said that she got the idea to petition the managers of the Big Duck after she stopped into the Duck's museum shop and discovered that there was nothing there to link it to the ham-let. "Actually, that's not quite true," she clarified. "I only found one thing, I can't

remember what it was. It might have been an old brochure, or postcard or something. I had to blow the dust off it."

Both women feel the omission of Flanders from the Big Duck advertis-ing was deliberate. "They went out of their way to eliminate Flanders," said Ms. Corwin.

"To a lot of people, Flanders is a dirty word," added Ms. Kruel.

Striking back at the perceived snub. the Flanders Community Watch, the organization that the women co-founded last year, has led the effort to reclaim the Duck. The watch published a clipout coupon in its December newsletter, which residents could send in to the Friends for Long Island's Heritage. (Continued on Page 5)

Crackdown Is

In a move that was met with bewil-derment and surprise, Southampton Town has issued criminal summonses to more than 200 homeowners since the end of November for failing to display a house number on their property as re-

The law took effect in March, 1993 and was intended by the Town Board to ensure that fire crews, ambulances and the police can find houses in the event of an emergency. The town undertook a program to number all homes and businesses in the early 1990s to prepare the way for an "Enhanced 911" emergency telephone system that has long been on the drawing board. The "E911" system would automatically display a caller's addressor a 911 dispatcher's computer screen. It is expected to become operational within the year.

This is the first time any summonses

have been issued for failure to comply with the law, which many homeowners appear to have ignored.

Nobody in Southampton Town government was able to say why the apparent crackdown had been launched or whose idea it was, including Supervisor Vincent Cannuscio; John Rankin, the acting chief fire merchal where efficients acting chief fire marshal, whose officers are issuing the summonses, and Deputy Town Attorney Robert Marcincuk, who is one of the attorneys prosecuting the cases in Town Justice

No publicity campaign was under-taken recently to warn property owners that an enforcement campaign would

Some homeowners who received the aummonses were mystified. They didn't know that the law existed, didn't know that the town was planning to clamp down on those who didn't obey it, and wondered if they will have criminal records if they are convicted of the charge, which is issued as a criminal

The Town Clerk's office, the Town Attorney's office and the Town Justice Court have all received calls from be-wildered homeowners asking for an explanation of the law and the criminal summonses they have received for al-

legedly breaking it.

The charge for failure to properly display a house number is classed as a criminal violation and can be enforced

with a fine of up to \$350 and 15 days in jail. Mr. Marcincuk said that here the town is seeking "a \$50 fine and a condi-tional discharge that they will comply [with the law] within three added that the charge will be kept on record at Town Justice Court, but that (Continued on Page 19)

Cani

A community Shinnecock Hills ampton Town S Cannuscio to cou owes the group installation of wat run in front of a v

and was trying to The Surrey Dow association filed a Cannuscio, a prof-Southampton Tow-month alleging he balagreement he h 1996 to pay for pa-installing water m

Head c Named

By Dougla Drawing immediations from environme ampton Town Boar pointed Quogue build the outspoken chairn the Long Island Build major contributor to a vacancy on the Tou-

Acting on a motion zational meeting, the 4-0 to appoint Mr. Zi Audrey Adams's six cilman Patrick (SI stained, citing a por interest because his fo done business with Jo tracting Corp. Environmentalists

deeply troubled by the saw it as a way to giv business interests a board that will play a ing the town's future

No resident can town government is o ampton when they pur Long Island Builders Planning Board," said the executive directo land Pine Barrens So Mr. Zizzi's harshest day. "This is a case v ning Board "

"Here's a guy who e pine barrens plan mak cisions in a town that p

Fish Granted New Lease on L

By Nicholas Watt

A few years ago when a friend told John Malinowski that there were tropi-cal butterflies to be found in Shinnecock Bay, he scoffed. "I told him that I collected fish, not butterflies," said Mr. Malinowski this week in the base-ment of his Hampton Bays home. Lined with fish tanks containing rare troplcal specimens collected in Hawaii, Mexico, Guadeloupe and Jamaicaand from under the Ponquogue Bridge in Shinnecock Bay it's more like the Coney Island Aquarium than a basement.

Aided by the Gulf Stream, dimesized tropical fish, including butterfly fish, sometimes are carried north from the coral reefs of the Caribbean and Florida and are found in late summer trapped in Moriches Bay (Continued on Page 22)



A French angelfish, rare in these parts, caught by John Malinowski Jr. Bay in 1991.

nh su nom, nerone fs meeting! to szk it their cases will come up," Trustee Eric Schulz added. "Other agents do it." As for agenda changes, he added. "The same thing happens at the planning and zoning boards.'

Trustee Jon Semlear, who chaired Monday's meeting in Trustee President Scott Strough's absence, commented that "larger" cases-those whose redredging be extended northward an additional 2,000 feet, which he estimated would take an additional week's work.

Also on Monday, the Trustees resolved that a group of co-op owners at 30 Rampasture Road in Hampton Bays, who had applied for a permit to lengthen their existing seasonal dock by 40 feet, must instead shorten it by 25 feet.

The dock is one of a number that

",9106 (Continued from Page 1)6" The Friends are an Island-wide nonprofit organization with an over \$3 million annual budget, and the group oversees historic landmarks and tourist attractions-like the Big Duck and Old Bethpage Village—for the museum systems of Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Running on the front page under the headline, "The Big Duck Resides in Flanders," the newsletter article urged residents to cut out, sign and mail a form letter to the president of the heritage organization, asking him to include Flanders in the advertising for the Big Duck. The newsletter asks, What's so wrong with Flanders that the managers refuse to admit that the Big Duck resides in Flanders?"

Apparently, Flanders' humble letterwriting campaign has already made an impact with the preservationists. The protest letters are pouring in.

"This week, I've gotten about a dozen of them," said Jerry Kessler, president of the Friends, last Friday,

Saying that he was "sympathetic" to the concerns of the Flanders residents, he said that he had called a meeting to discuss the matter with officials from the Suffolk County Parks Department, which actually owns the Duck. He said it was too soon to say what, if any, action would be taken.

He said, however, that advertising and promotional material for all the other landmarks managed by his organization prominently promote their native communities. "We operate the \$. James' General Store. We didn't rename it the Stony Brook General Store after 150 years," he said.

Mr. Kessler added that this was the first time a community has protested his group for slighting its heritage. "I've been doing this for 32 years, and this is the first time I've run into this,"

Mr. Kessler did say that the Duckwhich recalls a time when the entire East End of Long Island was home to a duck farming industry of international heritage.

He also expressed some uncertainty about whether or not, in its current location, the Big Duck is technically located within Flanders at all. While the Duck is situated about 100 feet northwest of the sign that says "Flanders" on Route 24, Mr. Kessler said he was unsure what that represented. "I don't know what school district it's in, what park district, what library district, what lighting district," he said.

Mr. Kessler is not alone in his confusion, apparently. Ms. Kruel said that ownership of the Big Duck has been in dispute ever since 1987, when the Big Duck was moved to its current location in front of the Sears Bellows Park riding stables from the location it occupied for 53 years just north of Pleasure Drive on Flanders-Riverhead Road. At that time, the Duck was donated to the Friends for Long Island's Heritage; the farm on which the Duck had stood for decades was slated for development.

Officials with the Southampton Town Tax Assessor's office confirmed this week that, according to their maps, Flanders can rightly claim the Big Duck as its own.

Built in 1931 by Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer, the Big Duck was initially located on Mr. Maurer's farm on West Main Street in Riverhead.

Legend has it that a live duck, tied down with rope to Mr. Maurer's front porch, served as the model for the Big Duck's design. The Big Duck is comprised of a wooden frame over which a wire mesh is attached, which supports the Duck's poured concrete exterior. The Duck stood in Riverhead for three years until Mr. Maurer moved his in Package Va farm-Big Duck and all-to a site on Including No Charg Route 24 in Flanders. The Big Duck housed a shop that sold locally-raised *Pkg. values are based on total values of pa Peking ducks and duck eggs to passing discounted pkg. MSRP. Total values equal \$ motorists. \$500 cash back and \$836 MSRP for no char The Big Duck has been nominated for may vary. Limited supply. Always wear you inclusion on the national register of information about leasing a Jeep/Eagle vehi historic landmarks, according to the JEEP or visit our web site at www.jeepun Friends for Long Island's Heritage. There's Or MICHELANGELO



ITALIAN RESTAURANT and PIZZERIA

ASTA NIGHT

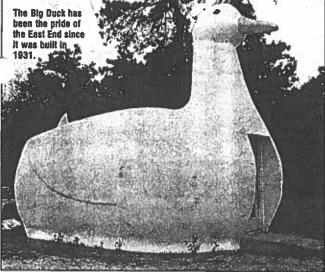
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY* FROM 4 PM



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Kay Jeep/Eagle, Inc. Bay Shore (516) 666-2700

Grand Prix Je Hicksville (516) 822-680



LI's Big Duck Joins Company Of Paul Bunyan, Dinosaur, Bottle

A sampling of other roadside architecture that made the National Register of Historic Places:

Dinesaur Park

Rapid City, South Dakota Built: 1936

Registered: 1990

Built during the Great Depression as a Works Progress Administration project, Dinosaur Park marks a rich deposit of fossils in the Black Hills. Seven green and white concrete lizards and the accompanying gift shop stalk tourists on a hill overlooking Rapid City. Joining the T. Rex and triceratops is an 80-foot-long apatosaurus that weighs 185,000 pounds.

'aul Bunyan & Babe The Blue Ox emidji, Minnesota Built: 1937

Registered: 1988

Most recently featured in the movie "Fargo," Paul and Babe first loomed over a winter carnival intended to promote tourism in northern Minnesota. Although Paul was quickly located in a city park, Babe underwent a 6-month odyssey, travel-ing on a Model-T chassis to St. Paul and other locations around the state before coming to rest alongside the mythic lumberjack.

Benewah Milk Bottle

Spokane, Washington

Built: 1935

Registered: 1986

A 38-foot-tall shrine to half and half, the Benewah Milk Bottle marked the southside Spokane store of the Benewah Dairy. A matching bottle, now dismantled, was also built in the north of town. Big enough to make any cow's udder shudder at the thought of filling it, the bottle is topped with a sheet metal cap.

Compiled by Isaac Guzmán







Big Duck Big-Time Now a U.S. historic landmark

By Bill Bleyer and Mitchell Freedman

With a concrete indifference to its new historic eminence, the Big Duck gazed out, over Flanders with its Model-T headlight eyes Friday, while volunteers scurried about inside. The beaked monument to roadside architecture has been put on the Na-

tional Register of Historic places, joining such noted places as the White House, Independence Hall and Mon-

tauk Lighthouse.

The big honor for the big bird led to

"It's certainly the most monumen-tal preservation category we can re-ceive for the Duck," said Lance Mal-lamo, director of historical services lamo, director of historical services for Suffolk County. "We're absolute-ly thrilled about it. It justifies what we've said for years, that this is one of the most historic landmarks, not only on Long Island, but in the

world."
There are many landmarks on the National Register — about 800,000 structures, sites and objects. Long Island alone has 39 historic districts and 383 additional sites on the list, such as Theodore Roosevelt's home, Sagamore Hill in Cove Neck. But, not one of them has what the

Big Duck has.

'It's unusual and unique. Some peo ple have a hard time realizing that something so recent and so wacky is part of our heritage. We tend to associate heritage with something very for-mal and solemn," Mallamo said. "This is whimsical and kind of funky, wacky and wild."

At the height of its popularity dur-ing the Great Depression, mimetic or programatic architecture such as the Big Duck gave us everything from gi-Big Duck gave us everything from gi-ant weiner hot dog stands to gargan-tuan coffee pot diners. Some even made political statements, like a Washington State gas station in the form of a teapot, meant to call public attention to the Teapot Dome oil scan-dal of the early 1920s. Usually assum-ing the state of the mediate him ing the shape of the product being sold, the concrete and wood behemoths served as mascots for both companies

The Big Duck has been the pride of the East End since it was built in 1931, by a Riverhead duck farmer who persuaded two eccentric stage set designers to help him create a store where he could sell his ducks and duck eggs to

passing motorists.

The red, Ford Model-T headlight eyes give the Big Duck a distinctive touch, just like the road-stripe yellow

The 30-foot-long concrete duck has moved twice since it stood at the Big Duck Dude Ranch in Riverhead, finally nesting at the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park on Route 24.

Most structures lose some of their historic value when they are moved from one place to another, Mallamo said. Big Duck backers argued that the movement itself was a part of the shop's history.

"It's poetry, and it's history," said Barbara Bixby, one of the volunteers filling the shelves inside the duck with T-shirts and ceramic mugs and bat-tery-powered clocks which quacked "Freres Jacques." The duck opens daily on May 16, and she spends three days a week working there in the summer. "It's a beautiful, whimsical history, a reminder of the 1930s," she said.

Back in the 1930s, most people who drove past the duck gave it a friendly honk — a tradition that many East

Enders continue to this day.

After Labor Day, the Big Duck is open only on weekends. But, come December, there's an annual party, with the Friends of Long Island's Heritage inviting local school children out for hot chocolate around the duck. A big green wreath is hung around the Big Duck's neck and arrows uck's neck, and everyone sings Waddle Through a Winter Wonderland."

When the Big Duck was quietly listed on the National Register of Historic Places April 28, it picked up a new cachet in preservation circles and got some additional protection against alteration or demolition by federally financed or licensed projects. Backers now can also apply for federal preser-

Correctional Officer Saves Toddler's Life

By Martin C. Evans STAFF WRITER

For the most part, the people who come and go where Richard McKenna makes his living aren't overjoyed to see him.

But on Wednesday, they treated the Bethpage man like a savior.

That day, McKenna, who has been a correctional officer at the Nassau County Correctional Center in East Meadow for 24 years, cradled a 2-year-old boy in his arms and breathed life into the toddler's lungs. "He was marvelous, marvelous," said the child's

ther, Adriana Arroyo, of the Bronx.

Arroyo had been visiting the boy's father at the jail at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday when her son, Josthen Diaz, went into convulsions.

Arroyo, who does not speak English, began scream ing in the crowded visiting room and thrust the child into McKenna's arms.

"She was hysterical," said McKenna, who said he could not understand Arroyo because he does not speak Spanish. "I was focusing my attention on her and didn't check the baby out. But someone screamed that she's saying the baby isn't breathing, and when I looked down the baby was limp in my arms."

McKenna, who receives first-aid training annually

as part of his job, tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, placing his mouth over the child's mouth and nose and filling the boy's lungs with gentle puffs.

It worked.
"To tell you honestly, I didn't even think, I just went on impulse," McKenna said. "He started coughing, so I knew he was breathing, but he was still convulsing. The baby was super warm to the touch, like he was on fire. You could tell he had a fever."

The boy was rushed to Nassau County Medical Center, which is next door to the jail. The hospital wouldn't say what was wrong with the child but reported him in good condition Friday.

Born as a creature of commerce, the Big Duck grew to symbolize Long Island

It's a Tall Tail, but True

BY STEVE WICK

n 1931, when Long Island was mired in the Depression, a Riverhead duck farmer named Martin Maurer had an idea he hoped would promote his business.

It was a big idea.

He decided to construct a 20-foot-tall concrete duck at the edge of his farm on West Main Street. It would be painted white, like the Peking ducks he raised, with a long orange beak. A door in its belly would open into a small shop, where Maurer would sell eggs and processed ducks.

Maurer's farm is long gone, but his Big Duck sits by the side of the road in Hampton Bays, at the edge of a Suffolk County park, an icon for a part of Long Island's history that has all but disappeared. It also is a symbol of the Island itself. Generations of people traveling to the East End for day trips or vacations passed the Big Duck on Route 24 and knew, as soon as they saw it, that their trip was almost over.

Children still scream "There it is!"

Children still scream "There it is!" as they pass it; many families have bets on who will see it first; people stop to have their pictures taken in front of it. It is a concrete duck, a unique piece of roadside folk art, but it also is a keeper

of family memories.

"It reminds people of their past," said Barbara Bixby, who works in the tiny gift shop inside the duck. "People walk into the shop and they are all smiles, as if all these memories have come back for them. It affects people of all ages. People honk their horns as they pass it. The word 'pilgrimage' comes to mind — people come to the Big Duck."

Maurer's idea didn't come out of nowhere. He had traveled to California and had seen big hats over restaurants, diners that looked like railroad cars and a giant coffee pot. He hoped the idea would work in Riverhead. It did. Maurer's Big Duck not only transformed his business, but put Riverhead on the map of America.

Today, there is only one duck farm left in the five East End towns. But there is still Maurer's Big Duck — glass-eyed, noble, sitting tall for an industry that barely exists on Long Island.

"It has become a major part of our heritage on Long Island," said Lance Mallamo, director of Suffolk County's Division of Historic Services. "I was there recently and a woman got out of her car with some kids, and she said, very seriously, 'Children, this is the Big Duck.' It's special. In our family when our kids were young, the person who saw it first would get a prize."

Sixty-seven years after it was built, the Big Duck sits at the edge of Sears-Bellows County Park. The small shop — which sells "duckabilia" — is operated by a group called Friends for Long Island's Heritage.

When it was built, the Big Duck joined dozens of roadside wonders across the country, looking like giant hats, or hot dogs, or milk bottles. Today, the story of



Newsday Photo / John H. Cornell Jr.

The Big Duck appeared unflappable in 1988 when it was removed from its second home, in Flanders, and escorted to Hampton Bays to perch near the entrance of Sears Bellows County Park.

the Big Duck — how it was built, and became a tourist attraction — is taught in some architecture schools.

"The Big Duck was the forerunner of 'duck architecture,' "Mallamo said. "Any building shaped like its product is called a duck."

It all began with one man's simple idea.

Like dozens of other duck farms in Riverhead, Maurer's farm sat alongside water — in his case, Upper Mill Pond. More than 30,000 white ducks waddled around the farm on their short journey from birth to death to dinner plate. All around Maurer, from Calverton to Aquebogue, were hundreds of thousands of ducks on more than 70 other farms. Riverhead sat at the epicenter of Long Island's duck universe.

Maurer hired a local builder, George Reeve, to help him build a duck covered in concrete. According to the Long Island Forum, Reeve — who had built barracks at nearby Camp Upton during World War I — asked his wife, Ella, to

roast a chicken so he could study its skeleton.

Reeve hired two local brothers, William and Samuel Collins, to help with the design and construction. For additional inspiration, the brothers procured a live duck, which they tied to their front porch so they could study it. History does not tell us if their model lived on in honor or wound up in orange sauce.

When the head was complete, someone had a brilliant idea for what to use for eyes — a pair of tail lights from a Model T Ford. When it was completed that June, the Big Duck was 20 feet tall, 18 feet wide and 30 feet long. It had a little tail, and from the way it was built, appeared to be sitting on a nest. The Riverhead News, in a story that month, said, "Motorists passing through Riverhead now have something to remember us by; it is a big duck . . . and naturally it is attracting much attention."

Indeed. In November, 1932, a na-

Indeed. In November, 1932, a national magazine, Popular Mechanics, published an article on the duck.

Maurer, seeing interest building in his creation, took out a design patent from the federal Patent Office. The Big Duck remained on Maurer's farm for only five years. In 1936, it was moved to Flanders, where it continued to serve as a place to buy eggs and processed ducks. In 1988, the 30-ton bird — facing possible extinction by a wrecking ball — was moved again and bought by Suffolk County. Not only has the Big Duck become a Long Island fixture, it also is acknowledged roadside art. Call it art ducko.

INTO THE 1950s, BUSINESS WAS JUST DUCKY

n its heyday, the Long Island duck industry was the marvel of the world. Of the eight million ducks produced nationally, more than six million per year came from Long Island. "From the 1920s through the 1950s, we were the American

"From the 1920s through the 1950s, we were the American duck business," said Doug Corwin, whose family owns Crescent Duck Farm in Aquebogue. Crescent is the last duck farm in Riverhead, where there once were dozens.

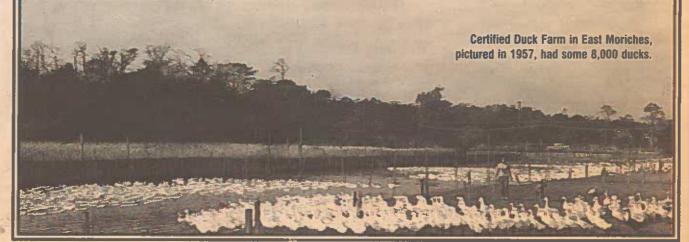
Through the 1950s, there were more than 70 duck farms on creeks and ponds throughout Brookhaven and the five East End towns. Today, according to Suffolk County officials, there are four duck farms left on Long Island. Still, the industry today is estimated to be worth approximately \$18 million a year.

In the 1960s, county officials sought to close duck farms because of such environmental concerns as water pollution. Dozens were closed and the property was acquired by the county. Some of that land today is county parkland.

"I'm 39, and I remember 30 or 40 duck farms when I was a kid," Corwin said. "On every creek in Riverhead. Through the late 1950s, Long Island produced about six million ducks. Today, with the few farms left, we still produce about 2.5 million ducks.

"The East End was perfect for the duck industry. The climate was perfect, the land was perfect, there were farms all around. It wasn't to last. But we still produce a superior product."

- Steve Wick



LONG ISLAND JOURNAL

2 Towns Ask, Whose Duck Is It Anyway?

By DIANE KETCHAM

HE locations of Long Island landmarks are usually not in question. The Montauk Lighthouse is — where else — in Montauk. Looming over the beach known as Jones is the Jones Beach Tower. And the Nassau Coliseum sits in the heart of Nassau County.

Then there is the Big Duck.
"Which is in Hampton Bays," said
Mae Martin, an employee of the
Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce.

"It's in Flanders, and there is no question about it," countered David Crohan, the Flanders Fire Commissioner.

A debate is brewing on the East End that may make the New Jersey New York fight over Ellis Island seem like a children's game of ringa-levio. In which community resides the Big Duck?

"It's the big dispute," Ms. Martin said. "It has a Hampton Bays address, so it's in Hampton Bays."

"It's in the Flanders fire district," Mr. Crohan said. "So it's in Flanders"

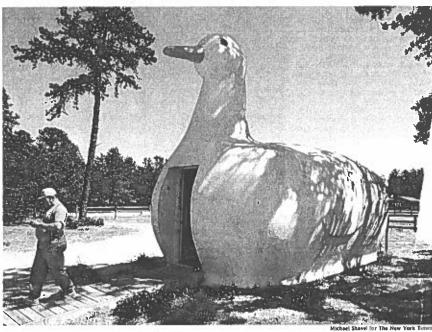
Is the giant fowl, which is now an official United States historic site, in Flanders or in a Hampton Bays? It was time to contact the duck.

A search in the white pages of the Suffolk County phone book revealed no Big Duck. There is a Big Dog (sportswear shop), a Big Geyser, and a Big Bagel. But no Duck. It was on to Information. "What listing?" the mechanical voice asked. "What town?" Well, there, of course, was the problem. An operator came on the line. "The — big — duck," she said slowly, her smile coming through the phone lines. "Well, let me see."

"I'm sorry," she said, "The Big Duck does not have a phone num-

An unlisted duck? Was there yet another debate? No, it seems the Big Duck is listed in the government pages under Suffolk County Parks.

Answering at the Duck was Barbara Bixby, the gift store manager, who is affectionately known as the



The Big Duck, a Federal historic site, is stirring a debate, with both Hampton Bays and Flanders claiming it.

Duck Lady "It's an elusive duck," she said of the search for its phone number. "I've tried to get it listed. We want to tell people we're now open seven days a week from 10 to 5."

Ms. Bixby knows all about the location dispute, and how it started. "There was an article recently in The Southampton Press," she said. "It was about there being no bathrooms in the Duck. In the article, the location of the Duck was listed as Hampton Bays. And for all practical purposes it is. We have a Hampton Bays maling address and we have a Hampton Bays phone number. So officially, I think, It is in Hampton Bays, but it's on the borderline of Flanders and it's in the Flanders fire

district and I probably should have qualified that, It's all so confusing.

A Flanders resident, Ida Crohan, Mr. Crohan's mother, said she was going to organize a demonstration in front of the Duck.

"That would be just terrible," Ms. Bixby said. "Flanders is a wonderful community. You just think Flanders Fields, it's so lyrical, and well the people of Flanders are so upset. I want to make peace with Mrs. Crohan. I want to invite her over and give her a jar of the Duck's beach plum jelly."

"I think that all the communities should share the Big Duck," Ms. Bixby continued, "kind of like one wing washes another."

Built in 1931 as a retail store for duck products, the Duck came upon hard times until it was moved 10 years ago from its original site in Planders. Now a museum-gift shop, it shares space on county land with the Sears Bellows County Park. No one is challenging in which hamlet the park is, but the Duck?

"It's still in Flanders," Mr. Crohan said. "We were all pretty upset when we read the article, because the Duck is definitely in Flanders."

"Fire districts are the hamlets of Long Island, and the Duck is in our fire district," Mr. Crohan continued. "Flanders doesn't have a ZIP code. We have a Flanders sign on the road near the Duck. That shows the Duck is in Flanders. We're going to put up a bigger sign next week and anybody who doesn't like it, bring them on down to the firehouse."

Mr. Crohan may have to take on a feisty 84-year-old — Ms. Martin, the one-woman-band at the Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce.

"That Flanders sign," she said, "I think is actually in Hampton Bays. I wanted that sign moved." As for the duck, "Flanders had it,"

As for the duck, "Flanders had it," she said, "and it was moved. If they wanted it so bad, why didn't they keep it? It's ours now." Shirley May, who works at the Hamptons Bay Diner, agreed. "I grew up in Flanders," she said, "and it was the Flanders duck. But now if someone asked for directions, I'd have to say the Big Duck is in Hampton Bays, and we're alled to have it."

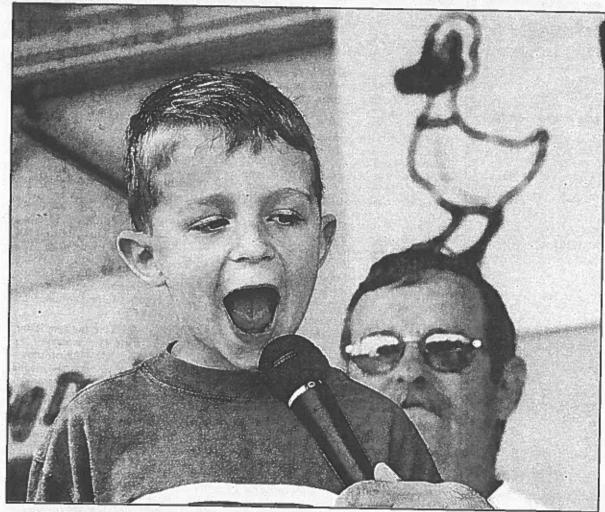
ton Bays, and we're glad to have it."
Ms. Bixby would just like the location dispute to disappear, "We have such exciting news here," she said. "One of the duck's Model-T headlight eyes was hit by lightning recently and disintegrated. Before it could be repaired, a starling made a nest in the eye socket. It now has eggs in it. We brought in a wildlife expert. She said we should let the little mother have her babies. It's history being made here. This is the first family of birds to be born in the Big Duck."

Odds and the End

Which was the bigger challenge the wind or the taxicab drivers? Michaella Blissett of Maximus Hair Sa lon and Spa in Westbury recently spent the day styling hair on Park Av enue. Not in a salon, but outside, on Park Avenue. To raise money for the American Cancer Society, several hairstylists were invited to work on the hair of people walking by. The only Long Islander was Ms. Blissett, who worked on 50 people. "It was a great day, but windy," she said. "We would spritz the hair with water, then blow-dry and style. Several of my regular customers walked by as I was working. They did double takes." The Suffolk County Bar Association and its Academy of Law offers various seminars for Long Island lawyers. Last week it offered a new one, "Sports Law With a Focus on Base-ball." Among those lecturing were Bud Harrelson, the former manager of the New York Mets, and lawyers who also act as agents for players. Refreshments were served by the Bar Association. Passed around the room were peanuts and Cracker-



Michaella Blissett standing right, a hairstylist at a Westbury salon, styling hair on Manhattan's Park Avenue to raise funds for cancer.



Brendan McVeigh, 5, of Manhattan and Mike Black of New Hyde Park, compete in the First Annual Big Duck Quack-Off in Flanders. Black won the adult-category grand prize.

Mighty Duck Calls

In fine feather at Flanders Quack-Off

By Katie Thomas

STAFF WRITER

Mike Black gave up the sugar in his morning coffee yesterday.

"Anything sugary dequacks me," the 49-year-old groundskeeper from New Hyde Park explained. "The sugar makes me sloppy; the quacks just slide off my beak."

The extra care paid off. Black ("as in quack") won the adult category grand prize in the First Annual Big Duck Quack-Off, held yesterday in the shadow of the whopping waterfowl along Route 24 in Flanders.

The event was organized by the Suffolk County Parks Department and Friends for Long Island's Heritage to draw attention to the Big Duck, a 1931 landmark recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places. About 30 duck enthusiasts, from age 2 on up, competed in the quack-off.

What impressed the judges most about Black, said "Mayor Mallard McDuck," the master of ceremonies also known as Bill Arnold of Dunmore, Pa. — was Black's ability to master both the low, rhythmic rumble of a real duck and the comical Donald Duck style.

Five-year-old Andrew Payne from East Hampton Springs was disappointed the contest's organizers weren't more specific when they asked for duck calls. "Do you want to hear my mallard call?" he asked before the contest. Before letting the reporter answer, he dove into a rapid-fire, gutteral "quack-quack-quack."

"That was a feeding call," he explained, then launched into a Peking duck call, a black duck call, and

NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 199

In Contest, Calls of the Really Wild

QUACK-OFF from Page A31

— to show off — goose, loon, and sheldrake calls.

"I'm an expert," he said. Unfortunately, Andrew suffered from slight stage fright during the competition and managed only two quick Peking duck calls. He failed to place in the contest.

Watching the contest from afar were the real experts — three ducks borrowed from the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Yaphank. As he circled their pen before the contest, 10-yearold Christian Gahan of Wading River offered them a piece of advice: "Quack from your diaphragms," he said.

Christian created his unique calls by blowing blasts of air through a closed fist. He, too, failed to place, losing to a stylized, Donald Ducky quacker.

With all the puns (such as: "I'm doing this because my wife says I'm quackers,"), cartoonish duck costumes, and even a bad duck-ese version of "I Got You Babe," did this event demean the waterfowl of the world?

Black, who has been communing with the birds at a pond near his home for 23 years and whose license plate reads "Mr. Duck", doesn't think so. "They're comical, madcap," he said. "And that pretty much fits my personality, too."

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YOUR ONLINE GUIDE TO OFFBEAT ATTRACTIONS



Flanders, NY



The people of Long Island love the Big

Duck -- or so we're told. The



odd-shaped building is one of the few good examples of roadside architecture within easy driving distance of New York City (next closest is Lucy the Elephant, way down in Margate, NJ). Hence all the attention the Duck gets in any book or article written about wacky structures along America's highways.

In 1931, Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer built this 20-foot tall eyecatcher using oncrete applied over a wooden frame. Taillights from a Model T Ford became its eyes, slowing red at night. Maurer sold ducks and eggs from the shop in its belly.

Maurer drew his inspiration from odd structures he had seen in California, especially a building shaped like a **giant coffeepot**. Shrewdly, Maurer patented his fowl creation, and the Duck became the darling of locals and travellers. This may explain why, in the world of architecture, any building shaped like its product is referred to as a "duck." Not a "coffeepot."



Maurer is long dead, and the Big Duck has shifted locale a few times. It was donated to Suffolk County in 1987, and sits along Route 24 in Flanders. The shop still operates -- now as a tourism center for the East end of Long Island, selling duck souvenirs to flocks of city

weekend-trippers.

Each year, (the first Wednesday in December) the Suffolk County Parks Department ponsors the Annual Holiday Lighting of the Big Duck. Local school children sing "Duck" carols, and warm refreshments including hot chocolate, cookies and doughnuts are served. Visitors join in singing the duck carols while awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus, transported by the Flanders Fire Department. Once Santa arrives, the switch is flipped and the Big Duck





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Hilton Hotels Corporation (ficker: HLT, exchange: New York Stock Exchange) News Release - 8/17/2000

Long Island's Most Famous Duck is Refurbished Through ``Explore the Highwall With Hampton"

FLANDERS, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 17, 2000--Hampton(TM), the national chain of mid-priced Hampton Inn(R) and Hampton Inn & Suites(R) hotels, and the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation today announce the restoration of one of the nation's most famous landmarks, "The Big Duck," in Flanders.

Recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, The Big Duck is the third of several refurbishment projects scheduled this year for the national "Explore the Highway with Hampton(TM)" landmark restoration program.

Today Hampton Inn volunteers, with the help of the Suffolk County Parks Department and representatives from the Friends for Long Island's Heritage, will repaint the Duck and restore the histor landscaping around this architectural treasure.

The restoration event kicks off at 10 a.m. at The Big Duck site in Flanders, off Route 24. The day will begin with presentations from Hampton; Friends for Long Island's Heritage, which currently operates The Big Duck landmark; and the County, who will proclaim, Aug. 17, 2000 "Explore the Highway With Hampton Day" in honor of the preservation effort.

In addition to executing much of the restorative work, Hampton has presented Friends for Long Island: Heritage with a \$3,500 donation for The Big Duck's restoration.

"With hundreds of Hampton hotels located along U.S. highways, we began last Spring to look for a grassroots community initiative where our national chain and local hotels could actively make a difference in their communities," said Judy Christa-Cathey, senior director of Marketing for Hampton In and Hampton Inn & Suites hotels. "Restoring the landmarks that travelers across this country cherish made perfect sense and was embraced immediately, as was The Big Duck, which has been at the top our list from day one."

"Built in 1931, The Big Duck originally served as a place to sell Long Island ducks to travelers and loca residents," said Suffolk County Executive Robert J. Gaffney. "When the land where The Big Duck reste was slated for development in 1987, it was donated to the County and the rest is history. We believed then as we do today that this facility's history and uniqueness continue to be a treasured landmark for the Long Island community. I'm extremely pleased that Hampton noticed it and offered to restore it to it original condition."

Today, The Big Duck is a well-known gift shop frequented by travelers passing by en route to Long Island's Hamptons and the East End. In fact, this quirky and historical roadside attraction is visited by more than 10,000 tourists each year.

Materials and services for landscaping for The Big Duck's restoration today also will be provided by G.R.O.W., a service of DDI (Developmental Disabilities Institute).

The Big Duck is the third restoration project for "Explore the Highway with Hampton," which launched in April of this year.

Since its launch, Hampton has completed refurbishment of the "Rain of Arrows" site celebrating Native American history in Mancos, Colo., and the restoration of one of Tennessee's famous "See Rock City" highway barns in Sevierville.

Hampton Inn to foot the duck bi

National hotel chain will help restoration of roadside landmark

By Tim Gannon

FLANDERS—Q: What do the Big Duck and the Hampton Inn hotel chain have in common? A: Absolutely nothing.

Then why, you might ask, is the Memphis-based hotel chain — whose nearest hotel is about 50 miles away — voluntarily restoring the Route 24 landmark today?

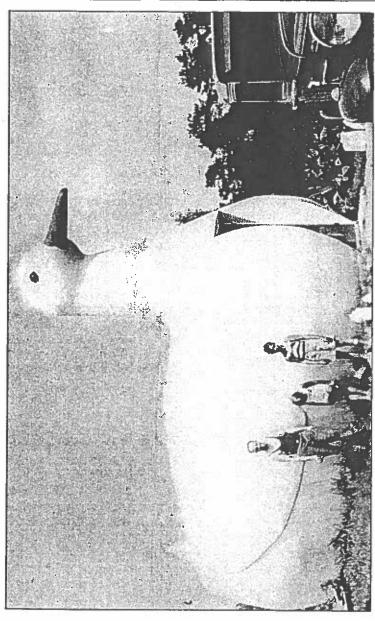
The company has a program called "Explore the Highways with Hampton," which restores roadside landmarks throughout the nation using Hampton Inn employees and funds.

"We took a survey and found that eight out of 10 Americans visit roadside landmarks when they travel, and nine out of 10 Americans felt roadside landmarks were in need of restoration," said Melanie Gravdal, a Hampton Inn spokesperson.

The company sought mail and e-mail suggestions of roadside structures it could renovate when it launched the program about a year ago. The Big Duck was suggested through an anonymous email, Ms. Gravdal said.

"We looked into it, and we thought it was a good project," she said. Because the e-mail didn't come with background information, Hampton Inn contacted the Suffolk County Parks and Recreation department as well as the Friends for Long Island Heritage to research the Duck's history and to coordinate a plan for restoration.

The Big Duck was built in 1931 in Riverhead to lure travelers to purchase Peking Ducks. It moved around a few times, eventually landing on a spot about a mile west of its current location. In 1987, the owner of that property announced plans to develop it, and gave the Duck to the county, so



An old photo showing visitors to the Big Duck in the 1930s.

long as it was moved elsewhere. It was moved to its current spot in a parade-like atmosphere accompanied by politicians and speeches. Ironically, 13 years later, the Duck's prior home still hasn't been developed and the property has a "for sale" sign on it.

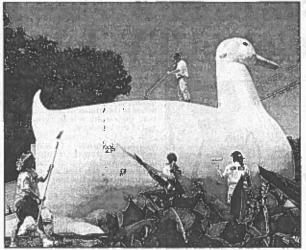
The plan for the Duck calls for re-creating the authentic 1930s landscape around it, replacing a screen door, repainting the entire 30-foot-Duck to its original color and installing a well underneath it, Ms. Gravdal said.

The well was being installed Tuesday, she said. Representatives of the county and the Friends for Long Island's Heritage also will be present today. The restoration work will begin with a brief cere-

mony at 10 a.m.

The Big Duck is only the third landmark to have benefited from the program. The others were the Rain of Arrows — a group of seven 30-foot tall telephone poles that tower above three 25-foot teepees in Mancos, Colorado — and the See Rock City Barns in Sevierville, Tennessee. Eventually, Hampton Inn hopes to renovate a total of 10 landmarks, Ms. Gravdal said. The Big Duck is the only New York landmark involved in the project so far, Ms. Gravdal said.

The company also has plans to renovate the "mission bells" in Oceanside, California, and a gas station on Route 66 in Odell, Illinois, that was one of Standard Oil's original stations.



Newsday Photo / John H. Cornell Jr.

Volunteers from the Hampton Inn Hotels chain pitch in to spruce up the Big Duck in Flanders as part of a beautification project for roadside historical sites.

Footing the Bill For Duck Work

Hotel picks up tab for facelift

By Stephanie McCrummen

Frank Saitta was a young boy in the 1974 summertime of eastern Long Island. Driving to the beach down Route 24, his parents stopped to buy brown eggs at the Big Duck in Flanders. And the 16,000 pounds of painted white cement imposed itself on Saitta's vulnerable, 13-year-old imagination.

At night, it practically called out to him: that pristine, rounded white body, those blank, black eyes, the shut yellow bill—that expression, so maddeningly passive.

So, Saitta confessed yesterday, he and his friends did what 13-year-old boys will do. They made whole evenings out of egging and otherwise leaving their mark on the icon.

Time passed. He grew up in Massapequa Park, went to college, moved to Manhattan, moved to Chicago, and then to Memphis six years ago.

There, Saitta went to work for Hampton Inn Hotels' corporate offic-

On the verge of 40, Saitta thought of his youth, and, as so many Long Islanders do, he thought of the Big Duck—and he felt sorry for it in a way.

And so it struck him as karmic opportunity when he learned last week that his company was embarking on a promotional project to help restore roadside architecture throughout the nation, including the Big Duck.

"I just had a flashback," Saitta said. "And I said I'd like to get back and make amends." Yesterday, along with 20 other volunteers from Hampton Inn hotels on Long Island, Saitta didritying his own hands to plant impatiens around the Big Duck, and on either side, red and yellow cannas, just like the ones that once adorned the duck in the 1930s.

"I feel very good," he said in the glorious sunshine. "Very good."

The Big Duck is an internationally famous example of roadside architecture, built of mesh wire and cement in 1931 by a Depression-struck duck farmer seeking to sell ducks and eggs.

Hampton Inn Hotels donated \$3,500 to the Friends for Long Island's Heritage, who are stewards of the Big Duck, along with Suffolk County.

The money paid for a well and pump, so that the Big Duck would have water for the plants. Volunteers also gave the duck a fresh coat of white paint. Dean Phillipe from the friends' group replaced the metal screen door to the gift shop inside the duck with a wooden one, like the 1931 original.

"When you have a structure like the Big Duck, people have ownership over it," said Jerry Kessler, president of the friends' group. "They adopt it, they love it."

As Saitta knows, sometimes the Big Duck adopts you, its stoic presence becomes something to be reckoned with, at 13 as much as 39.

"I think things like [the duck] are important," he said, pointing out the duck's ability to make comedy of life's troubles. "This is what we are meant to do. To be happy. And something like this is guaranteed to make us happy."

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Sweetie? Where's

The search is still on for lost greyhound

3y Laura Rydin

SOUTH JAMESPORT—Have you seen Sweetie? Using words dreaded by all pet owners, y searching for her 8-year-old greyhound since anet Wolff of Harvard, Mass, has been desperateuesday, July 11.

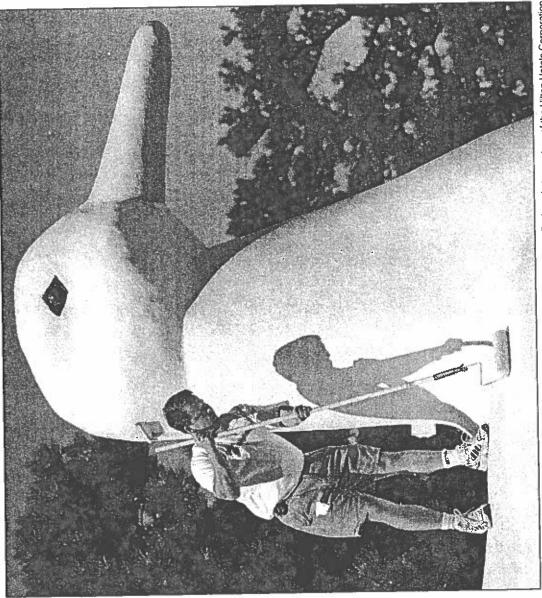
That morning, Sweetie and Lucy, a 12-year-old Nolff's mother-in-law's house on Fourth Street in south Jamesport. Neighbors later captured Lucy in chocolate Lab/springer spaniel mix, got out of Ms. heir back yard, but Sweetie was nowhere to be seen.

iccione, and plastered Sweetie's photo all over Eastern Suffolk — from Babylon to Southampton Ms. Wolff has called all the local animal shelters, claced ads with local newspapers and radio stations, egistered her dog with pet detective Carol and everywhere on the North Fork.

Since then, Ms. Wolff has received various conlicting reports as to Sweetie's whereabouts.

was trying to drink from a puddle of water, but she "I got a call on July 18 from Melissa Cain, a lovey person who had seen my poster at the deli in hursday or Friday. That dog was so close to me and was very skittish and afraid and wouldn't let me Aquebogue, who said to me, 'I saw that dog last

"Two hours after that, I got a call from an officer who said he was] from the Riverhead Police near," said Ms. Wolff.



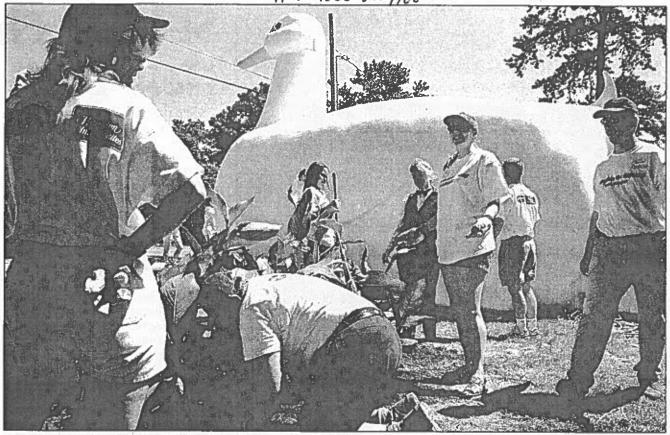
News-Review photo courtesy of the Hilton Hotels Corporation

On top of it all

Bill Mullaney, general manager of the Hampton Inn in Commack, was one of the 18 volunteers from the Hampton Inn hotel chain who painted, repaired and installed landscaping at the landmark last Phursday.

See Lost greyhound, page 25

SH PRESS 8/24/00



Hampton Inn employees and others worked last Thursday on restoring the Big Duck in Flanders with vegetation similar to what it was surrounded by in the 1930s.

Volunteers Turn Out for Preening

By Jody Shenn

The Big Duck in Flanders got some grooming last Thursday, August 17 from a crew of enthusiastic Long Islanders proud of their famous fowl.

The oversized landmark got a fresh coat of white paint and some long-deserved landscaping. The crew included a tuxedoed caterer named Rell Hertz, Jimmy Webb, an autistic man who helped grow its new plants, and Lauren Muller and Jill Salvati of West Babylon Junior High School, who were accompanying Lauren's mother Jan and more than 15 other Hampton Inn employees.

For Barbara "Babs" Bixby, who has spent eight years working in the gift shop in the belly of the Big Duck, it was quite a happy occasion. Also at the landmark on Route 24 last Thursday were Jerry Kessler, the president of Friends for Long Island's

Americans believe it's important to preserve the country's roadside landmarks. And, she said, "whether it's 18- or 20-year-olds out on the road or senior citizens exploring their youth," many of the hotel's guests arrive by car.

The hotel chain had already spruced up the Rain of Arrows, a group of seven 30-foot-tall telephone poles that sit next to three 25-foot teepees in Mancos, Colorado, and the See Rock City Barns in Sevierville, Tennessee.

For the Big Duck, a landmark on the national historic registry, Hampton Inn provided white paint, employees from its Commack and Islandia hotels, and \$3,500 for a well that was sorely needed at the site, according to Richard Martin, director of historic services of the Suffolk County Parks Department. He said inal location (up Route 24 in Flanders and before that in Riverhead) so it's not even a major improvement. It's getting back to what it was."

The plants and flowers which were planted around the structure came from Greenhouse Recreation Opportunity Workshop in West Sayville, where developmentally disabled adults like Mr. Webb learn job skills working in the GROW greenhouse.

The plants were chosen based on pictures of the Big Duck in its original location on West Main Street in Riverhead. According to Mr. Kessler, the hope is to turn the area into a "snapshot" of the duck's past. He pointed out that nearby telephone poles are adorned with 1930s light fixtures and 1930s radio programs like Jack Benny and big band music are piped out of speakers.

Hampton Inn employees and others worked last Thursday on restoring the Big Duck in Flanders with vegetation similar to JODY SHENN what it was surrounded by in the 1930s.

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For Barbara "Babs" Bixby, who has spent eight years working in the gift shop in the belly of the Big Duck, it was quite a happy occasion. Also at the landmark on Route 24 last Thursday were Jerry Kessler, the president of Friends for Long Island's Heritage, various Suffolk County Parks Department officials and a film crew creating a PBS documentary "Big Duck: Gateway to the Hamptonis" is individual to the

"Days and weeks and months go floating by," ivis."Bixby said, "but this

is a major happening."

The clean-up project was sponsored by the Hampton Inn hotel chain, which has been refurbishing several of the nation's treasured roadside attractions. The Big Duck became a part of the "Hampton-Adopt-A-Landmark" program after an anonymous e-mail to the hotel chain's web site. The Big Duck has actually lent its name to roadside attractions in which form follows function-they are known as "duck architecture."

"You're probably wondering what a large hotel chain is doing restoring a big duck," Judy Christa, senior director of brand marketing for Hampton Inn, admitted in brief remarks at the beginning of the project.

But she said that in a recent survey, the hotel chain found that 8 out of 10 Americans believe it's important to preserve the country's roadside landmarks. And, she said, "whether it's 18- or 20-year-olds out on the road or senior citizens exploring their youth," many of the hotel's guests arrive by car.

The hotel chain had already spruced up the Rain of Arrows, a group of seven 30-foot-tall telephone poles that sit next to three 25foot teepees in Mancos, Colorado, and the See Rock City Barns in Se-

vierville, Tennessee. For the Big Duck, a landmark on the national historic registry, Hampton Inn provided white paint, employees from its Commack and Islandia hotels, and \$3,500 for a well that was sorely needed at the site, according to Richard Martin, director of historic services of the Suffolk County Parks Department. He said that grass that had been planted last year had already died because of the lack of a water supply at the duck.

"It's definitely something that's been on the agenda," he added. "It did have a well and water in its original location (up Route 24 in Flanders and before that in Riverhead) so it's not even a major improvement. It's getting back to what it was."

The plants and flowers which were planted around the structure came from Greenhouse Recreation Opportunity Workshop in West Sayville, where developmentally disabled adults like Mr. Webb learn job skills working in the GROW greenhouse.

The plants were chosen based on pictures of the Big Duck in its original location on West Main Street in Riverhead. According to Mr. Kessler, the hope is to turn the area into a "snapshot" of the duck's past. He pointed out that nearby telephone poles are adorned with 1930s light fixtures and 1930s radio programs like Jack Benny and big band music are piped out of speakers.

"This isn't the original location of the duck, but they're trying to make it look as near to that as possible," said Emily Leogrande, a spokesperson for the Suffolk County Parks Department.

Nest of 'Big Duck' Will Be Preserved

Forty acres of mostly wetlands on the west shore of Reeves Bay in Flanders—once the nesting place of the "Big Duck"—will be preserved through a joint \$1.65 million acquisition by Southampton Town and

Suffolk County.

On Friday, August 25, the Town Board approved the expenditure of its \$850,000 half-share of the purchase from Red Fire Associates, the current owner. The town's share is to come from the Community Preservation Fund, which utilizes the proceeds of a 2-percent real estate transfer tax.

The Suffolk County Legislature approved the acquisition in June but must still decide whether the county's contribution will come from its Preservation Partnership Program or the Community Greenways Fund.

The Big Duck, a former poultry store and now a popular tourist attraction and national landmark, was moved by Suffolk, County from the shore of Reeves Bay to nearby Sears Bellows County Park in 1988.

—DONNA GIANCONTIERI

SHPRESS P/BILOS

Supe says: Put a pool in Flanders

This will provide

jobs to the young

people in the

community ... '

-Supervisor

Vince Cannuscio

By Tim Gannon

FLANDERS—It was just over 13 years ago that the Big Duck was ceremoniously paraded down Flanders Road in a so-called "duck moving ceremony."

The Route 24 landmark had to move from its prior location on the north side of Flanders Road, near Reeves Bay, because that site was slated for development by its new owners.

But the development never happened and a year ago, Southampton Town and Suffolk County purchased the land for \$1.7 million through the recently enacted Community Preservation Fund. A company called

Red Fire Associates had owned the 35 acres.

Now Supervisor Vince Cannuscio has a plan to transform the former Big Duck site into a "Gateway to Flanders" and is calling for construction of an outdoor

swimming pool, a community center and possibly a catering hall or restaurant on the site.

The supervisor unveiled his proposal during last week's state of the town address at Town Hall.

"One of the things I'm proposing is an outdoor swimming pool, a facility that exists nowhere else in the Town of Southampton," Mr. Cannuscio said. "We've also created walking or hiking trails high on the hills overlooking the water."

The supervisor also envisions a community center on the site and possibly establishing an affiliation with a privately-run company to operate either a catering hall or restaurant there.

"One of the problems in Flanders is that there are no jobs available," Mr. Cannuscio said. "This will create a tremendous community asset with access to the water, an outdoor pool and a gateway community center as well. I'd like to lease out part of it for a

restaurant or catering use as is done in other towns. This will provide jobs to the young people in the community, both through the recreation use and the business use."

Because it's surrounded by wetlands, the waterfront site might have environmental constraints, the supervisor said.

The Big Duck opened as a retail poultry shop in Riverhead in 1931. It sat on the Flanders Road property from 1936 to 1988, when it was moved about four miles east on Flanders Road near Sears-Bellows Road, where it remains today. Developer Robert Shamis of Manhattan purchased the former site in 1988 and filed a subdivision application to build homes on the

land. Town officials contacted this week could not recall what happened to the subdivision, other than that it never went forward.

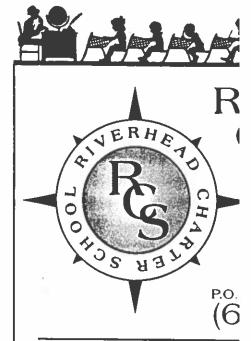
The state of the town address was the first time the proposal had

been made public, even to the other Town Board members, Mr. Cannuscio said, adding that the town will do more detailed studies of the project in the future.

"It's a vision for what can occur," he

Councilman Skip Heaney recently unveiled another recreation proposal for the Flanders/Northampton/Riverside area. It calls for building a town beach at Wildwood Lake and possibly purchasing the Wildwood Lanes bowling alley for use as a recreation center.

The town also is still in the process of building a new State Police barracks on Route 104 in Riverside. The town has acquired all of the land for that project and is currently negotiating the amount of the lease, Mr. Cannuscio said. The town plans to lease the land to a private developer for a nominal fee, and the private developer then would build the headquarters and lease it to the state.



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Big Duck May Wing Its Way To New Roost

By Bill Sutton

Fulfilling a campaign promise to the people of Flanders, Southampton Town Supervisor-Elect Patrick "Skip" Heaney has included funds in the 2002 town budget, which was passed earlier this month, to move the landmark Big Duck back to its original location in Flanders.

Although plans have not been finalized and an estimate of what it would cost to move the 20-foot-tall concrete fowl has not been completed, the board has approved spending up to \$50,000 to help the bird migrate.

The money would also be used to transform the 39-acre former home of the duck on the bay side of Flanders Road into a village green-type town park, Mr. Heaney said.

Although no formal arrangement has been made between the town and Suffolk County—which has claimed ownership of the landmark since it moved the duck to Sears Bellows County Park

See BIG DUCK, Page A11



Southampton Town Councilman Patrick "Skip" Heaney at the Big Duck's current roosting place.

BIG DUCK: To Take Flight?

FROM PAGE 1

in 1988—Tim Ryan, a spokesperson County Executive Gaffney, said that Mr. Gaffney supports the move in concept. County lawyers will review the proposal once Mr. Heaney finalizes it, he said, to make sure it is legal and then procted to give the duck to the town.

County Legislator George O. Guldi supported the measure during an election debate in Flanders last minth when Mr. Heaney first annanced that he wanted to move the dick. He said this week that he wald introduce legislation to ap-

prive the proposal.

Bilt in 1931 on a duck farm in Rivrhead, the Big Duck moved to Reute 24 in Flanders in 1936, where if owners used it mostly as a poultry ratil store until the mid-1980s.

in 1988, the duck's owners sold heir Flanders property, and the fate of the well-known attraction was in cuestion because the new owners s, id that they had no interest in preserving the landmark.

Suffolk County officials stepped in and moved the duck to its present hampton Bays nest. Friends for long Island Heritage manage the tourist attraction and employ the Big

Dück personnel.

In August, using \$850,000 from the Community Preservation Fund, the town, with a matching Suffolk County grant, purchased the duck's former roost from Red Fire Associates for \$1.65 million, featuring the way for the giant duck's return.

Mr. Heaney said that after the property was purchased for parkland, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Olson, longtime Flanders residents and community activists, suggested that the town move the duck.

"I thought that made a lot of sense," he said. "When the duck was originally moved, it was done on a temporary basis to save it."

Mr. Olson said this week that the Flanders community was enraged in 1988 when the duck was moved to

Hampton Bays.

"It's a Flanders landmark," he said. "It never should have left Flanders and belongs in the center of the hamlet."

One possible complication to the move is that the county has signed a rental agreement with the Friends of Long Island Heritage, the organization that runs the gift shop in the belly of the duck.

Representatives of the organization could not be reached for comment. Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Peter A. Scully, who oversees the operation, could not be reached for comment by press time. Mr. Heaney said that it is possible that the organization might move along with the

Mr. Heaney said moving the duck would "enhance" Flanders' identity. "The one element that it could always hold onto historically," he said, "was that it was the one hamlet where one went to go see the Big. Duck. It rightfully belongs in the heart of that hamlet."

Mr. Heaney said that the next step in the effort would be to enter into formal discussions with the county to address "practical-issues," Town planners will then conduct a site study and come up with a plan for the park space, following community meetings and public hearings.

Although Mr. Heaney said that he has not heard any opposition to the plan, at least one resident said that she thought it was premature.

Christine Prete, president of the Bay View Pines Civic Association, said that although she would like to see the duck come back to Flanders. she would like to see the Town Board focus on stabilizing the economy in the hamlet first.

"First, you have to stabilize Flanders economically," she said, "then you can do that stuff."

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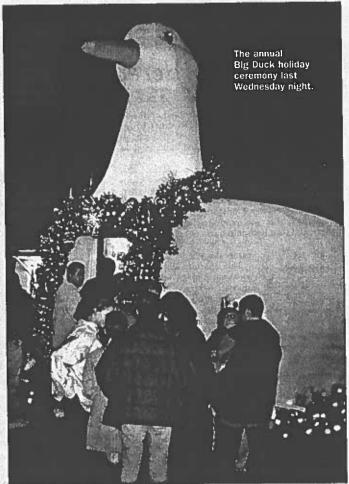
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Is Big Duck taking wing?

FLANDERS-Will the Big Duck be coming home to roost?

Southampton Town Councilman/ Supervisor-elect Skip Heaney says that \$50,000 has been included in the town's capital budget for relocation of the roadside attraction, but that there's no plan currently to do so.

"I simply wanted to identify the project in our capital budget for the future," he said. "There are many details that must be considered: ownership, current tenant leases, engineering, multi-agency coordination, site preparation, community support, etc."

The Duck nested on the north side of Flanders Road just west of the Flanders Men's Club for many years, but in 1988 that site was threatened with development, so the county stepped in and acquired the duck. It was then moved east to its current location by the Sears Bellows horse stables.

The Duck's migration took on the appearance of parade on moving day, with people lining the side of Flanders Road to watch the giant concrete bird slowly head to its new perch on a house-moving truck.

But the Duck's former home never was developed and the town actually acquired that property for \$1.65 million, with a county grant paying half the cost.

Flanders residents were upset when the landmark left in 1988, and there still are debates over whether its current site is located in Flanders or Hampton Bays. The only official jurisdiction boundaries it falls within are the Flanders Fire District and the Flanders Northampton Ambulance district, since zip codes and telephone exchanges don't have strict boundary lines. It's also believed that the Riverhead School District boundary includes the Duck, although there's no need to ever find out for sure since it's surrounded by county-owned land that will never produce schoolchildren.

On the map the school boundary appears to border Bellows Pond Road. Mr. Heaney brought up the issue at a candidate's forum in Flanders in

October and the idea seemed to have support from residents there. "Wouldn't it be a good idea to bring

the Big Duck back to Flanders?" he said at the time. "We've already taken steps in the budget to do so.

Suffolk Legislator George Guldi said at that same forum that he'd submit a bill in support of the move. However, he said a lease agreement could be an impediment. The county currently rents space inside the structure to a merchant who sells souvenirs.

Tim Gannon

Big Duck's Former Home To Be Preserved by Town

By Bill Sutton

Town officials say the former location of the landmark Big Duck in Flanders, once a thriving duck farm, has deteriorated into a haven for drug users and prostitutes, with dilapidated hatcheries serving as homes for illicit businesses.

But a plan to tear down the ramshackle buildings came to a halt this week after preservationists cried foul. Instead, Southampton Town officials said this week that the effort to transform the 39-acre Flanders Road property into a park might also include preserving and restoring at least some of the nine original buildings on the site as historic properties.

"We've tripped onto a wonderful opportunity," Town Supervisor Patrick "Skip" Heaney said at a board work session on Friday, "to build an active/passive park-like setting and integrate historic preservation into the site."

On the recommendation of Charles Bellows, chairman of the town's Landmarks and Historic Districts Board, the Town Board hired East Hampton historic preservation consultant Robert J. Hefner to evaluate the structures and determine which, if any, could be restored. He will be paid up to \$1,200 for the work

The town and the county each contributed \$850,000 to buy the land on the bay side of Flanders Road this summer from Red Fire Associates and earmarked the property for preservation as parkland and open space.

Mr. Heaney set aside \$50,000 in this year's budget to relocate the 20-foottall concrete fowl from its current roost at Sears-Bellows County Park in Hampton Bays to the Flanders Road site and to develop the property as a town park.

Built in 1931 on a duck farm in Riverhead, the Big Duck was moved to Route 24 in Flanders in 1936, where its owners used it as a poultry retail store until the mid-1980s. Now a popular tourist attraction and national landmark, the duck was moved by Suffolk County from the shore of Reeves Bay to nearby Sears-Bellows County Park in 1988.

Mr. Heaney's plans had originally called for the demolition of a barn and several former duck hatcheries on the Reeves Bay property. But according to Mr. Bellows, local historians suggested that the property

might qualify for landmark status once the Big Duck is returned, if the buildings were restored.

If the duck is returned to the site, its historic significance would be amplified, Mr. Bellows told the board, adding that the foundation remains intact. The duck is already listed on the National Registry and the New York State Historical Registry, and it has been designated a town landmark as well.

Several other buildings from the original farm are also still standing, including a barn, a former poultry store and several small hatcheries, all in varying stages of disrepair, Mr. Bellows said. Some of the structures may have to be demolished because of safety concerns.

Mr. Bellows said his committee would look to designate the entire property, once restored, as a historical site, saying that there might be both state and federal preservation funds available to help maintain it.

One hitch in the plan, according to Mr. Heaney, is that the county holds title to the duck and has entered into a long-term rental agreement with the Friends of Long Island Heritage, which runs the gift shop in the duck's belly. "The current tenants would have to come with the duck," he said.

But Mr. Heaney also pointed out that profits from the gift shop are earmarked to support museums and landmarks across Long Island, so the organization would be a fitting partner in the new park. The town would come up with other uses for the restored buildings, including setting up an area for tourist information where local chambers of commerce could distribute literature, he said.

Mr. Heaney also said that covenants placed on the duck following its transfer stipulate that it must always remain on Route 24 and on county property, but the supervisor said he believed an arrangement with the county could be worked out that would allow it to be moved to the future town park.

Councilwoman Linda Kabot, citing safety concerns, suggested that the town should seal the buildings on the property until plans for the site are finalized.

Councilman Steven Kenny said the town should approach the Cornell University duck research center in Speonk, suggesting that it might be interested in the historical significance of the site.



Supervisor Patrick 'Skip' Heaney stands in the original foundation in Flanders.

Poxabogue To Tee I

The Poxabogue Golf Center's application for an expansion of its facilities and the addition of a miniature golf course is again on the Southampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals agenda tonight, January 17.

The continuation of the public hearing, which began last April, has been postponed four times by the ZBA in the last several months because of requests by attorneys representing the golf center and a prominent neighbor, Ronald Lauder, who is challenging the application.

The golf center's owners, a trio of investors that includes East Hampton attorney Leonard Ackerman, has asked for a series of variances to allow them to continue using a 16-acre parcel of land, which is zoned for residential development only, as part of the driving range. The range had been illegally expanded onto that property, according to town officials

Poxabogue's owners also want to

Poxabogue's ov want to add c miniature golf c teaching fac

In the months since attended public hear. Sagaponack and Wair have organized in op golf center's expansic website with informa plication and holdin public meetings on the recently, the Wainson Property Owners As Saturday to review a prepare for tonight's leaves attended to the same and the

The association's o focused on the curre residential property,

sig Duck Park?

Town considers move to previous location

By Tim Gannon

FLANDERS—The Big Duck may soon do an about-face and head back

The Southampton Town Board is considering issuing \$100,000 in bonds home, which some would argue is in Hampton Bays, but at its previous Duck Historic Park" in Flanders And home, about a mile west on the north toward the construction of a "Big it wouldn't be at the duck's current side of Flanders Road.

The board last week passed a resoluronmental impact study would not be tion essentially declaring that an envineeded for the project.

The Big Duck was moved from its moving parade. At the time, the site old home, near Reeves Bay, in 1987 in was slated for development and the county stepped in to save the duck and what amounted to a very slow duck keep it on Flanders Road.

About 13 years later, the land, which was once a duck farm, was purchased by Southampton Town and Suffolk County for \$1.7 million.

time there were no concrete plans to Shortly after winning election in ed the idea of bringing the duck back to its old home at a meeting in Flanders. He said he had included about \$50,000 in the town's capital budget for the project, although at the 2001. Supervisor Skip Heaney suggestmove forward on it.

"Everybody wants it back," said Chrissy Prete of Flanders "It's so nostalgic. I remember when it moved, it was kind of sad."

along Flanders Road stretching from Huntington Lane to Long Neck Bousioned the creation of a historic district She said the town's master plan envi-

"The general consensus of my orga-

CR 105...

by using the Indian Island park road. Mary Anne Corwin of Flanders said From page 3

nization supports this," said Dave aity Association. "I haven't heard any Brewer, the president of the Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Commu-

front of a horse riding stable.

farm."

'We are moving forward. The first step will be to remove some of the unsafe Reached this week, Mr. Heaney said,

ings still on the 35-acre property, he to begin an assessment of the property said. The \$100,000 will allow the town and provide for demolition of most of he older buildings, although the town There are about 12 to 14 old buildalso is doing a survey of which buildstructures on the property." ngs it wants to keep.

back," he said. "The site could have a "It makes sense to bring the duck theme that recalls the role of the duck industry on the East End. If you're going to celebrate the duck industry,

status, even though the duck moved There still are some other issues to

east, Mr. Heaney said.

there, and the site still has landmark

Heaney said.



News-Review file photo by Barbarsellen Koch The Big Duck near Sears Bellow Park.

he said. A prior proposal for a commu-

ronmental constraints, it could

provide picnic and hiking areas

nity center with an indoor pool is not under active consideration, Mr. The duck's old foundation still

county's preserving the duck called for ty on Route 24, Mr. Heaney said. The town may have to carve out the footprint of the duck and deed that land to Part of the agreement that led to the it to always be kept on county properthe county in order to satisfy that requirement, he said.

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East End, on Tuesday, was strictly business.

That's because Mr. Levy was on the clock, visiting various spots in Southampton Town from Sagaponack to West Hampton Dunes, as part of his initiative to take a comprehensive tour of each of the towns in Suffolk County to look at needs and conditions of each area.

Southampton Town officials were happy to oblige, as they arranged for one of the town's Human Services buses to cart themselves, Mr. Levy and his entourage around the town for the day. He visited some of the town's completed projects: the now fully operational town-owned public golf course at Poxabogue, the Southampton Youth Services gymna-

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, left, and Southampton Town Board members Steven Kenny and Nancy Graboski stopped at the beach to check out erosion problems during Mr. Levy's day-long tour of Southampton Town on Tuesday.

sium and recreation center in North Sea, and the newly remodeled ball fields at Iron Point Park in Flanders.

"This is a good thing," Mr. Levy said as he stood at the first tee of the muncipally owned Poxabogue. "This will be forever in the hands of the public."

Town Councilman Steven Kenny

and Councilwoman Nancy Graboski were also eager to show the county executive where the town could use a little help from the county's pockets. At Town Line Beach, Mr. Kenny pointed out how a neighboring groin is trapping sand and causing severe

See LEW, Page A28

Big Duck To Fly Away Home?

By Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Plans are underway, after several years
of plenty of talk but little action, to
move the Big Duck back to its original
nest in Flanders, much to the delight of
that community.

William chased with Community Preservation Big Duck from its current home at Sears Bellows Park in Hampton Bays. Southampton Town Supervisor Patrick Heaney, Councilman Steve Kenny, Masterson, Public Safety Administrator Cheryl Kraft, Carl Iacone of the Bay View Pines Civic Association and Michael Northampton Association met last turn it into a park, and bring back the Brewer of the Flanders-Riverside-Wednesday, June 23, at the duck's former home-which Southampton pur-Funds three years ago-to discuss what had to be done to clean up the site, Highway Superintendent

While the progress on the issue has them hopeful, Mr. Iacone and Mr. Brewer aren't counting their duck before it hatches. Mr. Iacone has been trying to make the Big Duck, the 20-foot tall concrete icon, a priority on the town's agenda for several years.

town's agenda for several years.
"Skip is the first supervisor to be giving the issue any attention," said Mr. Brewer.

Supervisor Heaney said he vowed . three years ago to "bring the Duck back home to its original roosting place," and that it was time to fulfill that promise.

"We scheduled the meeting in order to move the Big Duck project forward," said Supervisor Heaney. "This is all part of our re-staging towards bringing the duck back from the county to its former roost. We made on-site decisions regarding which buildings are worth preserving and what needs to be



The Big Duck may be moving from its present site in Hampton Bays back to its original roost in Flanders.

cleared out. It was the pre-planning of a park that we want to build to recall the preponderance of the duck industry in this area."

The Big Duck was donated to the

See MIGRATION, Page A28

Spota's office charged Faus Chavez, 26, a co-worker of 23-y old murder im Vinessa Ho with first-degree murder, as wel second-degree murder and arso the third degree, on Thursday ming, June 24, in criminal cour Riverhead.

The first-degree murder chiresulted from evidence that Hoera had also been raped, Assis District Attorney Kerriann Kelly State Supreme Court Justice Micl F. Mullen. Semen recovered from

Voting—A

You can never start too e reminding people to vote—at 1 that's the motto of many polit party members, voting advocand election specialists.

That's especially true in the wake of last year's town election: on average, only about 37 percent of Southampton Town's registered voters came to the polls. As a result, groups like the League of Women Voters, who encourage political participation on a non-partisan basis, have a diffitask ahead.

But what these people also ki is that they'll successfully persu more people to vote this year ti in the last three years, or the r Starting with this week's celebratio through Election Day in November League of Women Voters for a speci awareness and non-partisan partiand nationally.

MIGRATION: Duck May Undertake Migration

ested in the more than 30 acres it was under the care of Suffolk County and owns the land where the Big Duck's footprint, or foundation, is still intact. sitting on back in 1987, and has been Priends for Long Island's Heritage since then. Mr. Heaney is confident that an agreement can be reached with the county now that the town The land has a national landmark county when developers were interdesignation.

"It makes sense to bring the duck back," said Mr. Heaney.

al register of historic places and is designated as a historic landmark in the Southampton Town code. It was built in 1931 by duck farmers Martin and Jeule Maurer, who were trying to increase their business during the duck and duck eggs from the inside The Big Duck is listed on the nation-Great Depression by selling fresh has a wooden frame and is made out of cement and wire mesh, except for its eyes, which are two Model-T tailof a giant duck. The Big Duck is 30 feet long, 15 feet wide, 20 feet high

nd Visit

as eight or nine buildings. Supervisor

ngs, but he said many of them are

ust a pile of sticks" at this point.

advocated preserving all of the build-

"Part of the reason for going on site

with local community leaders was for

said Mr. Heaney. "Some other people

hem to appreciate what was there,"

is such a fixture in American

wanted to preserve more. If you preserve too much you can't even clean out the property. roadside architecture that "duck" is now an architectural term for a highly sculptural form which represents the

Before the Big Duck can return, the own needs to clean up the old duck

products or services available within.

have the site cleared and to restore

the landscape to its 1987 condition.

arm. Supervisor Heaney plans to

A total of \$150,000 has been set aside

to clean up the site and move the Big Duck: \$50,000 from this year's budget cycle and \$100,000 from the 2003

capital budget.

The group that met last week agreed that the cleanup should be completed Several buildings are still on the site,

by the end of the year.

and group has decided three could be preserved. Prior to the meeting, the own had hired a consultant to determine which buildings could be saved. The study suggested saving as many Heaney said that some citizens have

ings they would like to save include a small building near the road that barn that "needs love" but could be where tourist information could be was once a retail store, a two-story restored and house a reception area Mr. Heaney said that the three build

"It would be a suitable location for the Riverside-Flanders Chamber opportunity to promote tourism," he of Commerce to advertise and an

be salvaged are the duck hatchery buildings. "We want to have a theme Another large portion of what can at the park that recalls the promise of the duck industry," said Mr. Heaney.

to Suffolk County when developers purchased the land. Now that the should return. Both the Big Duck and The last step is to secure the Big Duck itself. Currently, it is under the county's jurisdiction. It was donated Heaney agree that the Big Duck Town of Southampton owns the land, Flanders citizens and Supervisor And, the Big Duck's foundation is still the duck farm are historic Jandmarks.

have the opportunity to move [the Big Duck], where is the logic in leaving "This is really a no-brainer," said Mr. Heaney. "If you have the former foundation on forever-wild land, and vou he Big Duck on the side of a stabled

barracks are moving, there's not much Now that the New York State police near the current site of the Big Duck said Mr. Iacone.

enlightening conversations said that although he has had "some about the issue," he does not yet know whether he supports moving the Big Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy Duck back to the duck farm. He said he will look into the issue and determine the most appropriate location for the tourist attraction.

the Town Board and consult with the Mr. Heaney will submit a request for proposal regarding the site in July to community on the project.

of the site," he said. "We need to put nore money in the budget for site about the political will and legal necessities." "We'll sit down with community work. Then we'll talk to the county and come up with concept drawings

uge Clerk Kathy

lly got a little of erything here," said as he surwant to get rid drills in a bason at the gym-Mr. Levy joked he site. "Look at putting in." Kenny chimed fr. Levy praised n for its work as he weaved back on board."



Since its beginnings as a Riverhead farmstand, the Big Duck has moved twice. A movement is under way to return the Long Island icon to its previous home in Flanders.



the road? To get away from the wrecking ball, of course. Facing duck demolition after its Flanders site is marked for development, the bird goes to Hampton Bays and settles on the south side of Route 24, left.

2004, Carl lacone, below, of the Bayview Pines Civic Association, is among residents who want the duck back in Flanders. NEWSDAY PHOTO / DANIEL GOODRICH Main St Flanders NEWSDAY FILE PHOTO / TONY JEROM 2001. Just ducky at its 24 home in Hampton 1988. Why did the duck cross Sears-Bellows Bays, above. Pond County Park Sunrise Hwy **Duck's big stats** Hampton Bays Height: 20 feet 1988-curren Length: 30 feet Girth: 18 feet AATO BS Weight: 20,000 pounds SOURCE: SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIE

NEWSDAY / RICHARD CORNET

An activist envisions flocks of tourists visiting the Big Duck if it's relocated in Flanders

Waddle become of LI's iconic duck?

BY MITCHELL FREEDMAN STAFF WRITER

Carl lacone has a dream..A very big dream.

He wants to move the Big Duck — perhaps Long Is-land's most distinctive roadside landmark - back to its previous home in Flanders, where more people will see it and where he hopes it will become a symbol for the com-

munity.
It won't be easy. It would be hard, even under the best of circumstances, to move a 20-foot-tall concrete that's big enough to have a store in its belly. And, there is red tape in-

volved in moving the large white building — a national landmark — which is now in Sears-Bellow County Park, four miles down the road from its original Flanders site. Not to mention finding the money to do it, and getting

different levels of govern-ment to agree on just how to

Still, Iacone says, things are son, racone says, times are moving in the right direction — the way the Big Duck would want it. "You can't ask the duck," he says. "But, I think she'd like it."

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, who stopped at the Big Duck as part of a bus tour of Southampton last month, said he and Southampmonth, said he and Southampton Supervisor Patrick
Heaney "discussed the concept of moving the Big Duck
to a more visible location. We
are very comfortable with it."
Currently, it's on a lonely
stretch of road and the original Flanders site is a more heavily trafficked area.

But, Levy added, the move won't be easy. "There are a lot of details about cost and liability that still have to be ironed out."

Iacone, the president of the

Bayview Pines Civic Association, a Flanders advocacy group, has been fighting for three years to get the Big Duck back to the old foundation, where it sat from 1936 until early 1988 on the site of a long-closed duck farm. In 1931, duck farmer Martin Maurer and his wife Jeuel built the structure because they hoped a duck-shaped building would promote their business in Riverhead in 1931.

Developers who planned to build homes on the site donated the Big Duck to Suffolk County, which moved it to the Sears-Bellows County Park in Hampton Bays on Jan.

20, 1988. But, those homes were never built. Now, the duck farm property — the original Big Duck foundation still intact — is owned by the Town of Southampton, which plans to turn it into a park.

Several of the old duck farm

buildings are too rotted to save and will be torn down. But three or four will be turned into a museum, showing how the duck industry used to thrive in eastern Suffolk. "We'll even have a small hatch-ery, for educational purposes," said Southampton Town Councilman Steve Kenny.

This gives Iacone hope. The town plans to clear the overgrown site by the end of summer, opening up the views of Peconic Bay.

Iacone believes moving the

Big Duck back to its old home is the next logical step.
"When I started this three

years ago, they joked at the town board. They went 'quack-quack,'" Iacone said. Now the whole community is behind this."

Kenny, who used to drive past the Big Duck regularly as a boy when his family came out from Freeport during the summer, said that cleaning up the old duck farm is a priority.

But no decision has been made about actually moving the duck. And no one has budgeted any money to move the 10-ton building or checked with state and federal historical agencies to see if a move would threaten the Big Duck's status as both a state and national historic landmark.

Town officials are talking about donating the land on which the Big Duck foundation sits to the county - the build-ers' gift to the county required that the Big Duck always be kept on county land - but have not done the legal research to see if that is possible.

lacone, however, is optimis-

If the duck is ever moved, Iacone says, it will give him just the support he needs for another project to better de-fine the identity of Flanders. "We should have our own ZIP code," he said.

uck to fly the coop?

Proposal to move icon to Islip airport

By Tim Gannon

FLANDERS—While Southampton Town officials are plotting how to get the Big Duck to move back to its old roost in Flanders, the head of a group of western Suffolk aviators this week suggested putting the duck at Islip Town's MacArthur Airport in Bohemia.

And some Flanders residents nearly had a cow when they heard someone was trying to take their duck.

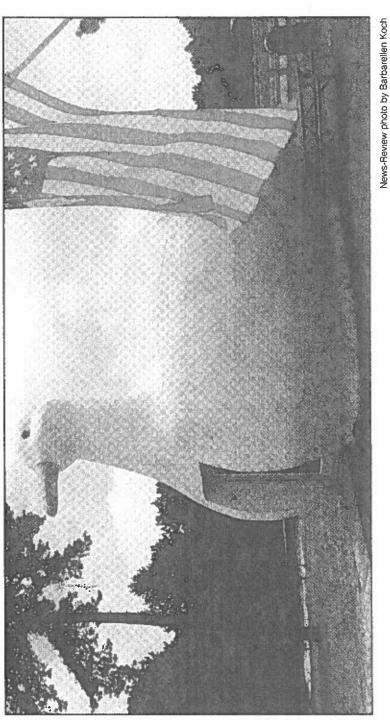
"Over my dead body," said Carl lacone, who's been trying to get the duck back to its old home in Flanders for nearly five years.

"Are they joking?" he asked.

Ida Crohan of Flanders has a whole scrapbook filled with clippings about the Big Duck, including many detailing its 1988 journey to its current location.

"The contract says it has to remain on Route 24," she said, reading from a 1988 article in a local newspaper.

The county signed that contract when it acquired the cluck from its former owners, who were planning to develop the land it sat on for about 50 years, Ms. Crohan said. It was then moved about four miles east, near the



The Big Duck at its current nesting place near Sears Bellows stable on Route 24. While Southampton Town is negoliating with the county to move it back to its original home, an aviation industry leader wants it at MacArthur Airport.

Sears Bellows riding stable. The contract states that the Duck remain on pickoute 24 and that it remain on countybowned land, according to Ms. Crohan.

As fate had it, the Duck's old site never was developed and Southampton Town acquired it a few years ago, and now plans to return the Duck to its former roost.

What has Flanders residents in a flap is an op-ed piece in Sunday's New

York Times by William McShane, the president of the Farmingdale-based Long Island Business Aviation Association.

In it, Mr. McShane suggests that the Big Duck should be moved to MacArthur Airport to greet visitors arriving there.

"By transporting the Big Duck to the airport, we would acknowledge that this concrete fowl isn't some dusty

curio from another era but a dynamic and relevant participant in a multibillion-dollar tourism industry now crucial to the economic well being of Long Island," Mr. McShane's piece in the Times read. "And by taking its place at MacArthur, the Btg Duck would reclaim its status as a highly visible landmark for travelers and reinforce its role as a fun icon for visitors."

See Duck, page 35

of Mattituck.

Thiele seconds that, but ves Mr. Kapell, a real estate is wrong in tying the tax to the dable housing issue. The dramatrease in prices, which he said is imited to the East End, has its in low interest rates, the area's mity to a very wealthy commuhat fuels a demand for secondproperties, and the post 9/11 of capital from Wall Street to

don't think it has anything to do the issue of land preservation," assemblyman said. He charged the mayor's comments "demone only a very rudimentary underling of the economic market-

Supervisor verhead linale, said he believes any ges should be limited to an inflabased indexing of prices. "What complishes is so critical to the e of the East End that I would go further than that," Mr. lip 'said

anges to the CPF program d not be quick in coming. The step would be for the five Town ds to approve "home rule" mess requesting action by the State slature, said Mr. Thiele. The earliest any bill could be considered would be during the next legislative session, opening in January 2005. And since the CPF was both created and amended by referendum, new tax threshold levels also would require

endorsement by local voters, which could take place no sooner than fall 2005.

Under that schedule, a revised transfer tax would probably not take effect until sometime in 2006.

Duck

From page 26

"They can't take the Big Duck from us," Mr. Iacone said. "It's a symbol of Flanders." He said the town already has expended hundreds of thousands of dollars on the plan to move the duck back to its former home. To do so, the town needs to sell the land where the Duck will sit back to Suffolk County so it will remain on county-owned land, as required by the 1988 contract.

A spokesperson for Southampton Supervisor Skip Heaney said his office had not heard anything about a proposal to move the Big Duck to the airport. The town has been in discussions with the county for two years about moving the landmark back to its original site, said Donna Giancontieri, executive assistant to

Mr. Heaney.

"The people of Flanders see the Duck as part of their identity, and they would like it back where it used to nest," Ms. Giancontieri said

Wednesday.

Supervisor Heaney has said in the past that the town planned to preserve some of the wooden buildings on the original site and turn the site into a park that pays homage to the area's duck farming heritage. The town is first planning to clean up the site before it pursues the sale of the small portion of land to the county.

Mr. McShane couldn't be reached for comment, although it appears there is no formal proposal to move the duck to MacArthur Airport.

"I think he should stick to flying planes," Mike Brewer, the president of the Flanders, Riverside, and Northampton Community Association said of Mr. McShane's proposal.

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gemond's Farly Rind Specials

Westhampton ach. Their staying on Long Islan, is about more than just jobs, it's about security and

The 106th plays an integral role in the safety of the recreational and commercial boating industry and is a key facet of homeland security structure within the region. Having their resources in place in the event of a major terrorist strike or weather emergency makes sense.

As one of the single largest employers in the area, the 106th also plays a strong role in the economic vitality of Westhampton and all of

of the 106th staying put in Westhampton are important, the impact to safety and security if the base was relocated is even more key. The 106th, centrally located in Westhampton between the Long Island Sound and the south shore, is needed to keep our waters safe and in rescuing mariners when they are in distress.

The 106th pararescue jumpers were involved in risky search and rescue operations during the storm of the century, as detailed in the book, "The Perfect Storm:" The 106th was also involved in the recov-

home of the United States Coast Guard Air Rescue Unit. Three years ago, however, the Coast Guard abandoned Westhampton and moved its helicopters to Atlantic City and Cape Cod. While the USCG has contested longer response times from these two new locations, any additional time to get on the scene puts mariners at grave risk. Since the move, Long Island mariners have been put in great danger.

If the 106th Air National Guard Unit is moved upstate, as it has been rumored, Long Island will be without any local mariner safety

tishing contingency which is worthy of protection.

It is imperative that we contact Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, who will make his recommendations for the closing of bases. We must convincingly tell him of the importance of the 106th to this region both from an economic and safety standpoint.

The address for the Secretary of Defense is Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1000.

Let's all do our part and send off a communique today.

And why not?

Bring The Duck Home

down the road to its current nesting spot. The Big Duck is a great tourist attraction. People come from around the metropolitan area to have their picture taken with the big, white fella and the Big Duck has become an international travel destination. It's not uncommon to hear several languages being spoken by visitors.

The Big Duck's current address is on Flanders Road in Hampton

■ Bays just before the road that

ads to Sears Bellow County Park.

A group of residents want to bring

une they mean the spot it originally

ested in Flanders. This was not the

ig Duck's first nesting spot.

le Big Duck home. By home we pre-

The Big Duck was created on the runo family duck farm on West Main

being spoken by visitors.

The Big Duck's interior is now a gift shop featuring, what else, but Big Duck memorabilia. The folks in Flanders who love the Big Duck should consider building a new duck, a Black Duck. The black duck is quite a beautiful bird. Its feathers are dark but are highlighted by several colors.

g Duck was moved from its West ain Street location to Flanders to

ichor the Haven Duck Farm. For

se was that of a poultry shop. The

reet in Riverhead. Its original pur-

For years Flanders was the center for black duck hunting. The black duck is a prized quarry of duck hunters. The

Several years ago the Big Duck w its Flanders coop and moved

ars it remained a poultry store.

Flanders Club, which lies between the Big Duck's two nests, was a rich man's duck hunting club. In fact, the main lodge on the property is known as Black Duck Lodge. As a boy, I remember they brought trailer loads of corn to be used as bait for the ducks. This practice was illegal but the gunners were wealthy and had strong political ties. In fact, one of the notorious gunners was reported to be a county law enforcement official, and he used law enforcement official, and he used law enforcement vehicles to truck his illegally shot game out of the Flanders Club.

The Flanders Club has more than five thousand feet of waterfront property and it is now owned by the citizens of Suffolk County. Ducks Unlimited has a tutelage of the property. They periodically hold clinics for

young up-and-coming hunters and those who just appreciate the great outdoors.

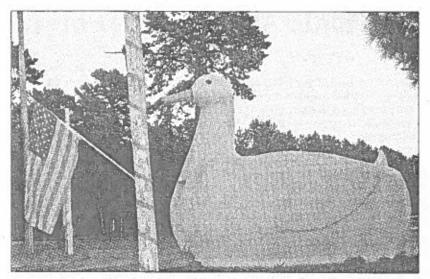
Many of Flanders residents worked at the lodge and acted as guides for the hunters. The Flanders economy was strongly influenced by the black duck.

Why not build a replica of a black duck, place it in Flanders on its original nest or at the Memorial Park just east of that location or at the Flanders Club? Make the inside of the Black Duck a hunting museum. Journals and antique paraphemalia including guns could be part of the display.

Flanders has a rich history and the world should know about it.

And why not?

S.P.L.R. 915/04



The Big Duck at its current roost on the Hampton Bays/Flanders border.

'Militia' Seeks Liberation Of Flanders-Bound Duck

By Christopher Henderson John Kramer wants you for the Big Duck Militia.

Mr. Kramer, who runs East End Insurance in Southold, is recruiting volunteers to defend that notable East End landmark, the Big Duck in Flanders, from outsiders who have suggested moving the icon to MacArthur Airport in Islip.

"We intend to launch from Montauk airfield and drop flour bombs or potatoes if the duck is moved out of the East End," said Mr. Kramer. "It is an East End landmark and there aren't too many left."

The location of the Big Duck, built as a roadside stand in 1931, has been an issue for some time. In fact, the duck, which has already moved twice and is currently located in Hampton Bays, will soon be moving again, just not to Islip. Instead the duck will return to its original habitat in Flanders after a concerted effort by Southampton Town government, the Bayview Pines Civic Association, and the Flanders-Riverside-Northampton Association.

While these organizations worked out the move, The New York Times ran an op-ed in August proposing that the Big Duck should migrate to MacArthur. This prompted Mr. Kramer to place an ad in a local paper vowing to defend the duck and asking for "birds of a like feather" to visit his East End Insurance website.

Mr. Kramer, who calls the MacArthur suggestion "bizarre," estimates he has recruited 30 or so volunteers thus far. He was unaware that the duck is returning to its original roost in Flanders. He was glad to hear the news but he plans to use the database of names he has gathered to spread information if the movement to transfer the duck to MacArthur or anywhere else outside the East End picks up

Carl lacone of the Bay View Pines Civic Association, who was instrumental in effort to return the duck to Flanders, had not heard of the militia. When asked if he knew about the militia, Mr. lacone asked, "Are they for us or against us?"

He also recalled the August op-ed piece in the Times and rejected the idea of moving the duck out of the East End.

"It's not in the duck's best interest as far as being a Long Island icon," said Mr. Iacone.

League of Conservation Voters Picks Bishop

The League of Conservation Voters has announced its endorsement of Representative Tim Bishop in New York's 1st Congressional District.

According to the League Ren

Wild ife Refuge, and drafting the bill to prevent a plan to dump contaminated dredge waste in Long Island Sound. It also noted his support for the establishment and mainta-

Teaching Ways To Save History

Town consultant gets experts for workshop

In conjunction with a townwide survey he is conducting to determine the condition of several of Southampton Town's historic cemeteries, consultant Zachary Studenroth and a team of graduate students from the University of Pennsylvania's Architectural Conservation Laboratory led a workshop on Saturday teaching local residents how to best preserve and protect headstones in the cemeteries.

Mr. Studenroth, a historic preservation expert and the director of the Sag Harbor Whaling Museum, and the Penn students led approximately 50 residents who turned out for the workshop through new methods in assessing the condition of tombstones, maintenance and restoration techniques, and surveying cemeteries. The group also demonstrated special techniques for cleaning tombstones of mold and moss, and for reattaching broken sections.

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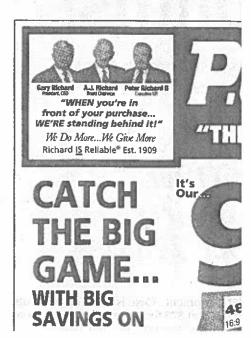
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era

Southampton Town hired Mr. Studenroth earlier this year to conduct a comprehensive survey



Steve Levy County Executive Ronald F. Foley Commissioner

Press Releases Archive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov 01, 2004

DATE SET FOR THE ANNUAL BIG DUCK HOLIDAY LIGHTING

The Suffolk County Parks Department will host the annual Big Duck Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:00 pm, announced Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. This year the Parks Department is working with the Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association to bring a Holiday Celebration for everyone to remember featuring the Big Duck trimmed in garland, holly and hundreds of sparkling lights.

Festivities will include Duck Carols led by the Riverhead Middle School Show Choir, a special appearance from Quacker Jack of the Long Island Ducks, and WLNG Radio will be on hand to announce the arrival of Santa to "light the duck". Christmas trees have been donated by Lynch's Garden Center and will be decorated for the occasion.

"There will be several tree lighting ceremonies throughout the season, but only one BIG DUCK Lighting," said Levy, "so make plans now to join the BIG DUCK and his friends as they kick off the holiday season!"

The BIG DUCK Store will be open for the evening, so you can pick-up some eggstra-special holiday gifts. The BIG DUCK is located on Route 24, roadside at Sears Bellows County Park, in Flanders. Parking will be available on Bellows Pond Road. For further information, call (631) 852-8292.

Back to Press Release Archive Listings

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steve Levy
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Emily R. Leogrande

Phone: (631) 854-4980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2005

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK FEATURED IN NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK BUILDINGS IN DISGUISE - Architecture That Looks Like Animals, Food, and Other Things

The Big Duck located in Flanders, NY is prominently featured by Joan Marie Arbogat in her newly published book, <u>BUILDINGS IN DISGUISE - Architecture That Looks Like Animals</u>, Food, and Other Things, according to Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. This book highlights unique architectural structures including eateries, stores, gas stations, office buildings and lodging across the United States.

Copies of this book can be purchased at the Big Duck Store located on Route 24 in Flanders at Sears Bellows County Park. In addition, the Store provides a wide variety of "duck" memorabilia and souvenirs, as well as tourist information.

The Big Duck was built in 1931 for Riverhead duck farmer Martin Maurer and his wife to attract passing motorists to buy the Peking ducks they raised. This 30 foot tall structure roosted on West Main Street in Riverhead until 1936 when the Maurers relocated to Route 24 in Flanders. In 1987 when its new location was slated for development, its then owners Kia and Pouran Eshghi donated the Duck to Suffolk County.

The Big Duck currently serves the public as a gift shop and tourist information center, and is open seven days a week from 12:00 – 5:00 pm. It is dedicated to the Suffolk County Historic Trust and is listed on the national Register of Historic Places in Washington, DC. For more information, please call (631) 852-8292.

g the Hampton Bays Fire Department carnival last week. Visitors also

expects his client to submit a revised application for a rina that is "less but he did not know when that would enthusiastic" son. ...me in the future,

office building, along the bulkhead of with fueling facilities and a marina his bayfront restaurant and bar. The mitted plans for a 54-slip marina, In February 2004, Mr. Hoffman sub-

roundingwendings and fragile marine vegetation.

This past spring the Town Planning Board, which was reviewing the proposal for the marina office and restrooms building and the expanded parking lot, ordered that an extensive environ-

See DOCKERS, Page A17

For the Big Migration Big Duck Gets Ready

and the next planning step for the Labor Day, according to Southampton The original and possible future nest of the Big Duck has been tidlied up Flanders site will begin shortly after Iown Supervisor Patrick Heaney. By Christopher Henderson

Town contractors spent six weeks earlier this summer prepping the Flanders. Workers removed trees and dated buildings on the old duck farm, and boarded up the three remaining buildings to prevent vagrants from of Firehouse Lane on Route 24 in brush, tore down some of the dilapi-37.5-acre site, located just north using them for shelter.

A new Southampton Town sign, complete with a picture of the Big Duck, was installed at the front of the site,

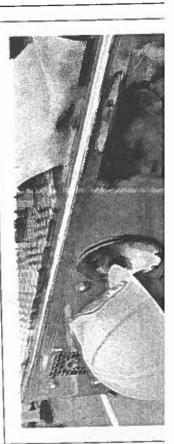
stretches northeast from the highway near the original foundation of the ing now encircles the parcel, which landmark. New orange safety fencto Reeves Bay.

steering committee of planners, town officials and community members in for a park on the site, including the ings, the creation of nature trails in the wetlands between the farm and the bay, and the restoration of vistas plete, Mr. Heaney said he will form a tive plan for the site. The committee will explore different possibilities renovation of the remaining build-Now that the renovations are com-September to come up with a defini-

See FLANDERS, Page A17

Is Mourned 'Father Bill'

who was best known for his devoted work at Our Lady of the Island shrine in Eastport and his soft-spoken con-The Keverend William "Bill" Vigliotta, By Jennett Meriden Russell



alf of their monthly meetings

Iall Work

imistic

ace board members decided to it to encourage more public

School, 141 Narrow Lane.

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS/AUGUST 11, 2005

Tuesday, August 16 SAG HARBOR YILLAGE ZONING SAG HARBOR YILLAGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. 6:30 p.m., Municipal Building, Main Street, COMMLNITY AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE. sponsored by Team Southampton, 7 p.m., Southampton High Monday, August 15 SOUTHAMPTON TOWN TRUSTEES, 1 p.m., Town Hall, Hampton Road. farm. It then moved the duck from its original location, but the develfor \$1.65 million, tapping \$850,000 in Community Preservation Funds, opers were never able to build on the Southampton Town acquired the site in order to place the duck at its former duck farm. In August 2001, original home, the town would need to deed part of the site to the county. Mr. Heancy said this week he is conproposed conservation opportunities subdivision on Highland Terrace investigation on Highland Terrace investigation of the subdiving land owners by Roman Lander. and designated it a town landmark. SOARD, meeting at 1 p.m., hearings at 7 p.m., Town Hall, Hampton Road. Arts and cultural events are listed separately on Page B6 in the arts section. at 7 p.m., Town Hall, Hampton Ros The board will hold hearings on a SOUTHAMPTON TOWN PLANNING Public Meetings Thursday, August 11

Calendar

fident that once the site is restored the county and the town will be able to work out a deal to move the duck.

FLANDERS: Preparing Duck's New Nest

"I take the county executive (Steve Levy) at his word," said Mr. Heaney. out the legal matters, it will be at that time that we will work on actual duck, once we have addressed the foundation on the site and worked When we are prepared to accept the

intends to put more money in the

The town allocated \$9,000 last year for the site cleanup and Mr. Heaney damental land clearing and demo-lition," Mr. Heaney said. "Now we need to look at how to restore the

This year I was content to do fun-

budget as the plans progress

Until the plan is complete, the tluck will remain at its current roost just west of Sears Bellows County Park, near the Flanders border with

remaining buildings on the property, which was owned by the Maurers While the town works out a plan for Each languishes in varying degrees ward with efforts to preserve the until 1984. Four of the 12 original structures remain standing, including a stucco vegetable stand, a wood barn, a hatchery and a wishing well. the rest of the site, Charles Bellows, Southampton Districts and Landmarks Board, is moving forchairman of fown's Historical relocation. the

> Hampton Bays. The 20-foot-tall duck, a nationally registered historic stand for duck farmers Martin and belongs to the county. The county

building that served as a roadside tuele Maurer from 1930 until 1984

"The buildings we chose to save weren't casually chosen," Mr. Bellows "They were chosen for their of disrepair said.

will retain ownership of the local landmark, regardless of where it The county bought the Big Duck in

1984 with the intent of preserving it when developers bought the Maurer

The barn that was preserved has scalloping along the upper section of the building and a duck plaque on one of its walls. The hatchery used to be twice as long and could be extended if the town receives grant authenticity.

Mr. Bellows plans to apply to the New York State Barn Association for a grant to repair the roofs of the

hatchery and the barn, which are in bad shape. Since the site is a registered town landmark, the town is round of barn grants will be offered eligible for grants it would not be able to receive otherwise. The next in the fall

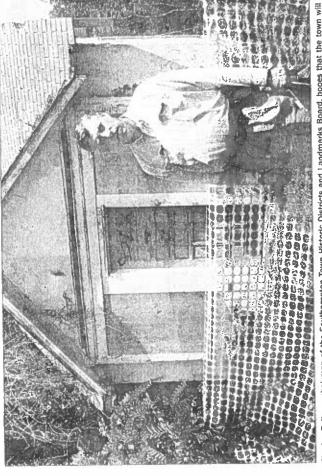
"The landmarks board is concerned about the outbuilding even without the duck," said Mr. Bellows. The barn grants allow us to get grants just for the barns.'

essential to the long-term plans for the site, according to Mr. Bellows. The preservation of the buildings is "The town has been wise to save

as many buildings as they could," Mr. Bellows said. "They provide the historical context for the duck, if it moves back.

ments can be made to the site. He has already discussed a vision of the Once the buildings are restored, Mr. future site with several members of the Flanders community including Bellows hopes additional improve-Carl Jaccone, the head of the Bay

ing the farm could be cut down to reveal the panoramic view of Reeves Bay. Mr. Bellows envisions a pas-There are several possibilities. The focusing on duck farming, the veg-etable stand could be converted into rest rooms, and the hatchery could used for storage. Mr. Bellows be used for storage. Mr. Bellows thinks that many of the vines among the farm could be cut down to barn could be turned into a museum the trees in the wetlands surround-View Pines Civic Association.



Charles Bellows, chairman of the Southampton Town Historic Districts and Landmarks Board, hopes that the town will be able to receive grants to restore the buildings on the original BIG Duck site

located immediately to the south of sive recreational use for the parcel the duck farm, which is also owned

by the town.
"To me, this is Flanders," Mr.
Bellows said. "It's going to be a big

plus for the area in the end. Flanders is going to have something special. president of the Flanders, Riverside and Association, another civic group that Community Brewer, Northampton Michael

has been pushing for the relocation of the Big Duck back to its original site, is confident that the duck will

"We want it moved back to its original site," Mr. Brewer said. eventually be returned.

DOCKERS: Marina Proposal Withdrawn

mental review of the entire project be conducted along the guidelines laid out by the State Environmental Quality Review Act, a process that can take many months.

Center of the Mamptons, 44 Woods Lane, East Hampton.

Saturday, August 13

nity. He said he was thinking about dropping the fuel pumps from the plan and scaling back the number of plans because of the groundswell of local commuopposition from the slips at the marina. **REFLECTIONS ON JERUSALEM:
THE CHALLENGE OF RELIGION IN OCREATING AN ETHICAL UNIVESS.** a discussion led by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, 8 p.m., Jewish Center of the Hamptons, 44 Woods Lane, East the Mannan. "CONFRONTING SEPARATION: THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES FACING ISRAEL," a discussion led by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, 10 a.m., Jewish Center of the Hamptons, 44.

Woods Lane, East Hampton.

the geography to the overall size and scope of the project. I think they have the understanding now that a 50-slip na-something with the restaurant, maybe, or work with my neighbors, Mr. Bennett said that a revised mari or rehabilitate the tennis courts.

Southampton Town Trustees, said that he was not surprised by Mr. Hoffman's withdrawal of the marina na plan would likely drop the fuel dock proposal, minimize the necessury dredging and possibly scale back Scott Strough, president of the the dockage spaces.

Mr. Hoffman affirmed Mr. Strough's assessment. "They clearly did not like the project," he said. "I was just trying

marina is not going to be received

to come up with the least objectionable use of my property. A marina seemed obvious-nobody uses their boats, so there's no traffic, it's not late

at night and it's not noisy. My guess is that during the course standing that this application was not going to be approved by us. of communication with our board,

much money he has spent on the now defunct application in the last Mr. Hoffman would not detail how 18 months but said it was "not that much, really." One expense: An inde-

nendont environmental assessment

This week, Mr. Hoffman would not elaborate on what plans he has for sich mois the property in the future.

Earlier this summer, Mr. Hoffman said that he was reconsidering his

application.

THE ARTIST

Newsday 1/2/06

A starry splash for the duck

We're about to see if this time **Elaine Thompson** went a little too far.

Last year the Bohemia artist created a stir when she introduced her portrait of the Montauk Lighthouse in the style of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night." This year Thomspon is giving the same treatment to another Long Island landmark: The Big Duck.

"I always wanted to do a painting of it," Thompson said. "I love the Big Duck — it just says Long Island." Given the reaction to her lighthouse painting, she concluded Long Islanders "love Van Gogh and that type of fantasy look."

The painting is to get its premiere starting tomorrow in a show at the Massapequa Public Library and, like the lighthouse, is to be available as a print or on notecards.

Trend-spotters that we are, we can sense a whole series of Long Island landmark "Starry



Elaine Thompson's Van Gogh-style portrait of LI's Big Duck

Nights." And if you think it's impressive to see the moon shining over the Montauk Lighthouse and the Big Duck,

we can't wait until she gets to that other defining area icon — Long Island's tallest structure, the Hempstead recycling plant.

10 great places to feel dwarfed by kitsch

When it comes to roadside attractions, towering kitschy statues reigned supreme. Brian and Sarah Budio, co-authors of Roadside Gints, share their top oversized icons with USA TODAY's Colleen Clark. there's a time-honored American tradition to go big or go home. Before the sprawling Wal-Warts and Target Greatlands dotted the interstates.

The Big Duck

Flanders, N.Y.

things is a duck. Here's the inspiration for it, a duck-shaped stand, built in 1931, that was its own giant sign, needing no words to announce what was sold inside: ducks selling quackers in 1984. Now you can buy all manner of duck souvenirs. G3-852-8292: co.suffolk.ny.us/web-temp1.cfm/dept=106:úd=336. and duck eggs," Brian says. Once a staple in the area, the 20-foot-high stand stopped "One term for buildings shaped as other

Dinosaur Land White Post, Va.

small game. Visitors can walk through a 60-foot-long shark, and kids can sit in King Kong's paw. Other random animals join the mix, like the 20-foot-tall king cobra and a giant praying mantis. But the Butkos favorite is the souvenir shop that gets you both coming and going with everything you never knew you needed, 540-869-There are no gentle giants at this park in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, where 40 dinosaurs battle it out and eat the heads off 2222; dinosauriand.com.

Catorland

For more than 40 years, kids and growning allier have been aweed by the entrance to Gatorland, a massive concrete reptica of a gator's head, Brian Burtos says. But that isn't the only giant at this 110-acre theme parts. The preserve also plays host to Alf, a rare American croondle that weights more than 1,000 pounds. The part offers extensive widilfe deducation programs; crowd is hove the Cabor jumpanos show, where the Do reptiles hunge for their food, 800-393-5297. eatoriand.com.

In Inglewood, Calif.: The sign for Randy's Donuts was raised in the 1950s.

Randy's Donuts Inglewood, Calif.

By Sob Ribba Jr., USA TODA

Ubert the Bull

mate it's about 22 feet across, it seems much bigger. The Buttons asked owners Larry and Ron Weintraub about the dimensions: The Weintraubs dimbed to the roof with a tape measure and confirmed that it's Built in the 1950s as part of the Big Do-Nut Drive-In chain and near Los Angeles International Airport, the giant doughnut is populair for photos ops of planes spied through its hole. Though most sources esti-More than 20,000 people a year visit Albert the Bull, a 30-foot-tall, 35-ton Here-ford bull. Audrhor's Junior Jaycese raised \$30,000 in 1963 and rounded up steel rods from abandoned windmills to build the frame of the statue. Sarah Burko says. Layers of sprayed concrete were added to give Albert a "hairy" look, and 65 gallons of paint completed the look. 712553-3789; auduboncounty.com/attractions.asp.



jackalope souvenirs were one of the staples of this small Wyoning town. Sarah Burdo says. The Chamber of Commerce honored the fabled creature with an 8-foot-tall jackalope sculpture that was later destroyed by an errant pickup truck. A larger sculpture was later exerced in the center of the city.

The legend of the jackglope started as a joke when some local hunters mounted deer antiers on a jackrabbit. For decades while the myth of the hybrid animal grew

The World's Largest Jackalope

Douglas, Wyn.

and a traveling jackalope pops up around town, complete with saddle for visitors to hop on for photo ops. 307-358-3462;

artery, this gant coffeepot caught the eye of weary drivers headed through Pennsylvania. Built in 1927, the building was originally a lunch spot attached to a gas

Back when the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) was the main New York-San Francisco

The Coffee Pot

jackalope.org.

station. After a bypass diverted congestion and customers, it fell into disrepair, Brian Butlo says. Things perked up in 2004, when the Lincoln Highway Heritage Cortivional Corticions.

dor moved it across the road to the county fairgrounds and restored it. 800-765-3331

Inhcorg/content/subpag/pot.htm

Gernini Giant

In White Post, Va.: Travel along Stonewall Jackson Highway until you reach the intersection of today and the Mesozoic era.

Coney Island Hot Dog

the form of a 28-foot tall, 500-pound the form to and refitted with a space helmet and Syruch foam rocket, which has been stolen and restaurant mascot was named the Cermini or cigant after NASA's Germini space program. in 1965 at the dawn of the Space Age, John and Bernice Korelc set out to find something to distinguish the Launching Pad Cafe from the countless other restaurants The USA's biggest Coney Island dog isn't Carfound in Coney Island, N'Y, but in Bailey, ale Coo. The 42-hooteng, 14-ton, hot-dog- thy shaped restaurant — complete with cond— in ments — was built in Derwer, moved to the all stadow of the Rockies in Aspen Park and an stadow of the Rockies in Aspen Park and an finally relocated to the banks of the South fost Platte River. Owners Ron Afgerer and Dane ret. Wiescamp have been cooling up a reno-res, varion, "but it's hard to get anything done Gis when tourists stop every few minutes to 81; gawk," Sarah Butdo says, 303-838-4210.

Paul Burryan Land

"You'll find Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox from coast no coast, but he thrives best in the upper Midwest," Brian Butdos says. The best-brown pairing is in Bernidji. Minn., but an arimated one from 1949 steals the show at Paul Bunyan Land, a small armusement park at This Old Farm Poneer Village. This 36-foot-ball Paul moures his bead, mouth and arms while talking to visitors. "Kids get spooked when, through the magic of helpful ticket-takers, Paul greets them by name," Butdo says. 218-764-2524; thisoldfurm.net.

famously elusive jackalope (unless it's already mounted or on a postcard) is a popular tourist destination and photo op. In Douglas, Wyo.: This statue of the

321/2 feet of glazed glory, 310-645-4707.

Looking for more travel ideas? Review "10 Great" lists on the Web at 10greats.usatoday.com.

Salley, Colo.



Town Plans Big Duck's Migration

But many obstacles still must be cleared

By Andrew Keshner

For Southampton Town, returning the Big Duck to its original location in Flanders is going to take, yes, getting some ducks in a row.

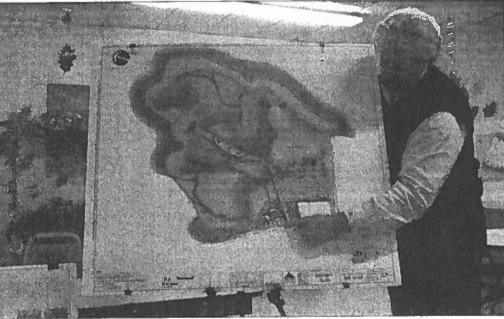
Parks and Recreation Superintendent Allyn Jackson and Jeff V. Murphree, the town's planning and development administrator, met November 30 with community members to map out a roosting spot for the National Register landmark on its original property. The site is now under archaeological review. The Thursday evening planning session followed a meeting in early November at which Supervisor Patrick Heaney and Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Ronald Foley discussed ways to move the duck back to its original location along Route 24.

At question is the unmistakable 20foot-tall duck—which, like the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, was illuminated on November 29—that now sits in front of Sears Bellows County Park between Hampton Bays and Flanders.

Suffolk County purchased the duck and moved it to its current site in 1984 to save it from demolition. In 2001, Southampton Town acquired the 37.5-acre duck farm that used to be the Big Duck's home, with the intention of bringing the landmark home.

In whatever shape the deal takes, the county will continue to own the Big Duck, while the town will own the land. Public officials reached for comment on the Big Duck's move declined to give a timeline on when that would happen.

During the November 6 meeting at Town Hall, Mr. Foley said he found the town's proposed plans for the site "very impressive." But he said there were still various obstacles and considerations to



Tim Rumph, president of Araiys Design, explains a plan for the Big Duck's proposed home.

ANDREW KESHNER

address before any move could take place. He said that the county's primary concern was honoring the "historic restrictions" it imposed on itself when it sought to have the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The duck was put on the landmark list in 1997.

"We talked about the possibility of moving the Big Duck but didn't arrive at any conclusions," he said.

any conclusions," he said.

According to Mr. Foley, no follow-up meeting has yet been scheduled. He said his side would first do more research into the nature of the restrictions before arranging another meeting with the town.

Mr. Murphree also attended the November meeting. "The county has been nothing but positive," he said. "It's just a question of how do we go about doing it."

t."
Mr. Heaney could not be reached for

comment on the meeting.

While the county researches what it

can and cannot do with the Big Duck, an advisory committee of town officials and community leaders selected by the Town Board continue to work on what they can do with the 37.5-acre site. Ultimately, the Town Board will decide on the advisory committee's final concept plan for the site. Mr. Murphree said that upon approval of the concept plan, the town will move forward with creating the park regardless of the status of negotiations between the town and the

After an initial meeting on September 28, the advisory committee convened again on Thursday at the Flanders Community Center. During the first meeting. Tim Rumph, the president of Araiys Design and the planning consultant picked for the project, presented an initial concept plan for the site. According to Mr. Murphree, what followed was a "lively discussion," with community members ultimately calling for a park design that would emphasize the site's natural

beauty. "We wanted it to be simple for tourists passing by," said Michael Brewer, a committee member and president of the Flanders Riverside Northampton Community Association.

During the second meeting, Mr. Rumph presented just that: a park that had winding trails with interpretive environmental signs along the way.

Following Mr. Rumph's presentation, Chris Sheldon, historian of the Northampton Community Association, presented an alternative plan created by the community members of the advisory committee. First drawn by Mr. Sheldon, the plan had been discussed after the monthly community association meeting held earlier that week.

Similarly "passive" in design, the community members' plan put the entrance point farther east on the property. The plan gained traction with town officials, who said the different entrance improved access to the park. Mr. Sheldon presented another plan to make the site a more active parkground, which appeared less popular with town officials and community members. According to Mr. Murphree, the next meeting will take place sometime after the new year. At that time, Mr. Rumph will present yet another concept plan that incorporates the community members' alternate plan. Additionally. Mr. Murphree hopes to have the results from the property's archaeological study.

erty's archaeological study.

The town has commissioned Alfred Cammisa, owner and principal investigator of Tracker Archaeology Services, to perform an archaeological review of the site.

According to Mr. Murphree, the New York State of Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Places asked that the archaeological review be done after a February 2002 review of the site's buildings. Starting in October at a cost of \$5,000, Mr. Cammisa began what's called a "phase I investigation" of the site. Mr. Cammisa's three-member crew will do several shovel tests throughout the site.

At this point, the background research required for the review has been completed, and Mr. Cammisa said the team will dig approximately a foot deep in search of the "absence or presence of history," be it nails, ceramics or Indian artifacts.

Two Pilots Headed Home from Brazil

By Caroline Simson

Two Long Island pilots who were involved in a mid-air collision in Brazil are now being allowed to return to the United States, according to a statement released by the Ronkonkoma-based company that employs them.

In a press release from ExcelAire on Tuesday, a three-judge panel in Brazil has ruled that Joseph Lepore, 42, of Bay Shore and Jan Paladino, 34, of Westhampton Beach are free to return to the United States and should have their passports returned to them by the end of the week. The ruling requires that the pilots return to Brazil if additional court proceedings are required.

The two pilots have been detained in Brazil for questioning in the government's investigation of the collision, which occurred when their Brazilian-made Legacy executive jet with seven passengers on board collided with a Gol Airlines Boeing 737-800 over the Brazilian jungle, killing all 154 on board the larger aircraft on September 29. It was Brazil's most deadly aviation accident.

Mr. Lepore and Mr. Paladino were able to safely land their damaged jet at a nearly military base about 30 minutes afterward. No one on their jet was in-

In the press release, Jose Carlos Dias and Theo Dias, the attorneys for the pilots in Brazil, said they were pleased with the ruling.

"All of the professionals involved in the

"All of the professionals involved in the investigation of the accident between the Legacy jet and the Boeing aircraft had been allowed the freedom to come and go, except for Joseph Lepore and Jan Paladino," they said. "This decision corrects that difference in treatment. We are pleased with the Court's ruling."

are pleased with the Court's ruling."
"ExcelAire and the Lepore and Paladino families obviously are very pleased with the court's ruling and are hopeful that it brings Joe and Jan one huge step closer to a long-overdue homecoming," added Robert Torricella, the company's Miami-based attorney."

The crash has resulted in a swirl of controversy around the pilots and the equipment in their jet, and families of the victims killed in the crash have alleged in a lawsuit that the two pilots deviated from their flight plan, which dictated that they remain at 38,000 feet, not at 37,000 feet, where the crash took

The lawsuit, which was filed in November in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, also names ExcelAire and Honeywell International Inc., the company that manufactured the business jet's transponder, which is supposed to operate an automatic anti-collision system.

The lawsuit alleges gross negligence on the part of ExcelAire and Honeywell, a New Jersey-based company, and seeks unspecified damages for the families of the victims for the September 29 plane crash

An investigation of the crash is being conducted by Brazilian authorities, who are receiving assistance from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. A preliminary report released by the NTSB stated that the commercial plane was lost in the Amazon jungle following a probable collision with the smaller jet.

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The students in Shoreham-Wading River High School's service-minded community relations class will be leading a cleanup of the campus exercise trail from 8 am to 1 pm April 21 and 22. They plan to remove trash, clear pathways, fix old and broken signs and fence in unsafe areas.

'We hope that by doing so, more community members would want to use the exercise trail, and feel safer doing so," the students said in announcing the project.

Anyone interested in participating, such as community organizations, may contact the class and teacher Kevin Mann at 821-8184 or kmann@swr.k12.ny.us.

Shoreham landscaper dies in bypass crash

A Shoreham man was killed at roughly 8 pm April 7 when his pickup truck veered off the Route 25A bypass in Rocky Point and hit a fence, police reported.

Joseph Aronica, 39, of Pitkin Path was driving his 2005 Chevrolet westbound when the accident occurred, according to the Seventh Squad, Aronica, the owner of a landscaping business, was pronounced dead a short time later at Mather Hospital. His vehicle was impounded for a safety check.

Detectives are investigating the crash and ask that anyone who witnessed it call them at 852-8752 or Crime Stoppers at (800) 220-TIPS (8477).

ne week in meetings

 The Brookhaven Town Council will meet at 1:30 pm today, April 12, in Town Hall. The board next meets at 4 pm April 17.

 The CDM Chamber of Commerce will meet at 7 pm April 16 at North Fork Bank on Route 25A in Rocky Point.

 The Rocky Point Board of Education will meet at 7:30 pm April 17 at the high school.

The Shoreham Wading River Board of Education will meet at 8 pm April 17 at the high school, not, as previously announced, at the Briarcliff Elementary School. The board will meet at Briarcliff at 7:30 pm April 24.

 The Wading River Shoreham Chamber of Commerce will meet at 7 pm April 18 at Andrew's by the Pond in Wading River.

 The Shoreham Civic Organization will meet at 7:30 pm April 18 in the Miller Avenue School library.

Meet Mr. History, he who saved the Big Duck

LINSHA cochair Mallamo focuses on the Vanderbilt

BY ARLENE GROSS

Local history maven J. Lance Mallamo is fond of reciting obscure tidbits like the story of how artist William Sidney Mount's mother sold the family's Setauket home. Deeming that the parts were more valuable than the whole, she sold it little by little - windows, doors and all.

Mallamo's love for local lore led to his 1987 appointment as Suffolk County's official historian, a post he still holds. He has also been executive director of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum for the past decade.

"He is Mr. Suffolk County History," said Steve Gittelman, president of the Vanderbilt Museum, "the person you go to when you need to know,'

Mallamo can pinpoint the genesis of his passion; the murals and sculptures that decorate the Three Village schools and his seventh-grade social studies class. The students of that Setauket class were each tasked with researching the life of a person buried in the local cemetery. Mallamo researched William Sidney Mount, who grew up where the Setauket library now stands.

"The revelation that I shared that same space hundreds of years later established a connection to the past in me that was and still is awesome," said Mallamo, who lives in Head of the Harbor.

If each tourist were to

his or her stay on Long

Island, it could mean a

to the local economy,

according to Mallamo.

\$320 million yearly boost

the Duck

add one more day to

His love for history and preservation guided him through 18 years with the Suffolk County Parks Department, first as manager of the Historic Trust and later as director of Historic Services.

During his tenure, he was instrumental in saving the Big Duck and securing its landmark status. Mallamo said that the Duck, originally a poultry store, became so

Lance Mallamo in front of one of the giant copper beech trees on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Museum, which he calls 'a treasure and oasis' for Suffolk County.

famous that an architectural term was coined in its honor; a "duck" is a true architectural form that emulates its function or product

In 1986, he learned that the owners, Kia and Pouran Eshghi, had planned on moving the building from Route 24 in Flanders to their private property in Southampton. Mallamo wrote the

pair several letters making the case for having the Duck designated. Eventually, the owners relented and donated it to the county, and today it rests Sears-Bellows Pond County Park in Flanders.

"I'm sure that I will be remembered for that," joked Mallamo, "My epitaph will probably read that I saved

Under his helm at the parks depart-

ment, the county also acquired Deepwells Mansion in 1988 and the St. James General Store in 1989, Both landmarks were threatened by development. The mansion, in grave disrepair, was to be replaced by houses. The general store was about to be sold and turned into another retail establishment.

A recent effort for Mallamo was cochairing the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area (LINSHA) planning commission, which disbanded with the signing of the plan. Villages and towns across the Island that opted into the plan are eligible for state money to preserve cultural and historic resources and promote tourism. Northport and Belle Terre were among those that rejected the plan or simply didn't vote to participate.

We have an identity crisis," Mallamo said. "We need to get people to visit in their own backyards." If each tourist were to add one more day to his or her stay on Long Island, he said,

Continued on page A15

(LARKETTE (HINESE AUCTION

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RP vision

Continued from page AI

and what they think would make it better.
That could happen as early as June, and if not then, in September, as proponents do not want to try to do it during the

nents do not want to try to do it during the summer when many residents take vacations or at least are focused on relaxation.

After the charrette, Vision Long Island will take the ideas and meld them into a rough planning guide. It might call for rezoning so that apartments could be built above stores in the business district. It might feature more on-street parking, designed primarily to narrow the usable roadway so drivers slow down.

It might include a better attempt at oldfashioned lighting — standalone lampposts like Port Jefferson's as opposed to what are seen by some as the poor imitations that got tacked onto existing poles on Business 25A.

Those last tend to come loose in the wind — and the original, mid-20th century aluminum fixtures are still above them, ruining for some the attempt at Victorian ambience.

More apartments, traffic calming, 19th-century design motifs—they're all elements of the new downtown Rocky Point many of the hamlet's most prominent citizens hope to see enacted. They believe that doing so will make the area more attractive to business owners and shoppers alike, boosting the local economy and reducing vacancies; lessen the cost of housing, especially for young families and retirees; and even ease the school tax burden on residents as the commercial sector takes on a greater share.

Rich Johannesen, the Rocky Point attorney and longtime civic activist who now heads the Conservative Party in Suffolk, said the lack of affordable housing is causing a brain drain among the young and educated, and an experience drain among the old and wise. And the business district — which he said stretches from the western junction with the bypass all the way to the eastern one, and up Broadway to Prince Road — is not all it can be either.

"For Rocky Point to be affordable and for our business district to survive and to thrive, we need more high-density development," Johannesen said, adding that town, county and state will have to do their share by providing the infrastructure and fast-tracking building applications. "We'll need a lot of governmental support for this to work, and we expect to get that from all levels of government that have jurisdiction over our downtown."

If all goes as hoped, that support will come in various forms: first the funding town Councilman Kevin McCarrick (R-Shorcham) secured for the Vision contract; then rezonings by the Town Board; the installation of sewers by the county; and grants from all levels for items like new, more attractive storefronts and those Victorian lampposts.

"I envision quaint facades, apartments over buildings and a more pedestrianfriendly downtown," said Jane Bonner, head of the Rocky Point Downtown Revitalization and Beautification Committee, and an aide to county Legislator Dan Losquadro (R-Shoreham).

Bonner said she hopes for a downtown that looks like a combination of Port Jefferson, Patchogue, Northport, Cold Spring Harbor and Riverhead. She acknowledged that those communities all have waterfronts near their commercial districts, but said it still could be done on Rocky Point's main drag.

"I want downtown Rocky Point to be

What do you think of the Rocky Point vision?
See page A22 or just go online and vote in the beaconrecord.com poll.

a destination," Bonner said. "I've been thinking about this since I moved to Rocky Point 20 years ago."

Diane Burke, president of the Rocky Point Civic Association, agreed with her allies that appearance and economics are both key.

"Ultimately what I would like is to have a plan for architectural design, driven by both the residential community and business owners," Burke said. "And then the other piece of it is more a business plan, how to attract businesses to the community and what would be viable."

Much of the commercial side of the equation rests on the establishment of a business improvement district (BID), a taxing authority that could only be created with the approval of most businesses in the area. In places like Port Jefferson and Sayville — as well as Manhattan — BIDs perform services that municipalities might handle otherwise, or that might not get done at all; everything from snow removal to beautification.

Johannesen, Bonner, Burke and Mc-Carrick all believe the commercial community is on board with creating a Rocky Point BID, and many longtime merchants have confirmed that they are. Activists and officials are adamant that for the vision to succeed, the merchants must be on board from day one.

"Sometimes I believe in the past there have been visions where the business community didn't participate as it could have," McCarrick said, "and I believe in this vision that's paramount."

A storeowner himself, McCarrick said he does not foresee doing any work on his family's businesses after the visioning, but that other merchants will.

"If I could have one wish here, it would be that the businesses participate in the process, because ultimately it will be their properties that are affected by the vision,"

Lance Mallamo

Continued from page A3

it could mean a \$320 million yearly boost to the local economy.

Marcia Kees, coordinator of the New York State Heritage Area Program, said, "I found Lance to be a total professional. His leadership was instrumental in guiding the work of the planning commission and their work to draft and write the plan for the North Shore Heritage Area that was approved in December. His work and his knowledge were absolutely critical to the completion of that plan."

These days, Mallamo's focus has been on restoring the Vanderbilt, which he described as Long Island's largest general museum. "There's something for everyone here," he said.

Collecting artifacts from around the world, William K. Vanderbilt II anticipated turning his Eagle's Nest estate into a museum. "He saw the typical Long Islander couldn't travel the world, so he brought the world to them," Mallamo said.

The house, though well built, was designed as a summer home. In its heyday from the 1920s to the 1930s, about 200 guests came per season, Mallamo said. Today, about 150,000 to 200,000 visitors

turn up yearly. Over the years, there has been extensive water damage, forcing the closing of exhibit space to the public.

Due to a lack of proper maintenance of buildings, grounds and collections, the museum lost its accreditation in the early 1980s. With Mallamo's guidance, in 2005, the Vanderbilt achieved a ten-year, unconditional reaccreditation from the American Association of Museums.

Describing the reaccreditation as Mallanno's most impressive accomplishment, County Executive Steve Levy said, "Lance... has done a great deal for the residents of Suffolk, working tirelessly over these many years to preserve our heritage. We all owe him a debt of gratitude."

Gittelman said, "Twe never had someone who's more at the heart of the institution than Lance. He has a way of doing things without ruffling feathers. He has a way of bringing people together."

A few Vanderbilt projects in the offing are the creation of an exhibition area in the scaplane hungar on the waterfront; building a boardwalk to connect the waterfront buildings and making the 2,000 feet of beachfront more accessible; designing a circular and more navigable roadway system for pedestrians.

"The museum is a treasure and oasis for Suffolk County and it's also a major

force for Long Island and Suffolk County tourism," Mallamo said.

One of the greatest challenges for Mallamo is enticing people to come back to the museum time and again. In this vein, they've launched Living History tours, whose guides play characters from different eras of Long Island's social history.

It comes as no surprise that home for this history buff is a grand historical

house. The dining room of his Victorian home — built by Smithtown's paronym John Smith — dates back to 1680, and the rest of the house to 1851.

His wife, Noel, of 34 years, said, "He's shared his interest in history with our [five] sons and me. That's been a big part of our relationship and our family life, beginning with our honeymoon in Williamsburg, It's been great fun."

In his spare time, Mallamo dabbles in carpentry. The perfectionist in him wants to insure his home restoration projects are done right, he said, so he does it himself. He also enjoys painting landscapes in oils and watercolors.

When he travels, he takes a part of his work along with him. In England and Italy, he searched out the homes of Vanderbilt's relatives.

"I like making those connections back to Long Island," he said. J. Lance Mallamo exudes a deep and abiding pride and devotion to his home turf, saying. "I think Long Island rules."

Nurses indicted

Continued from page A10

nurses, charging that Sentosa breached their contract by not employing the nurses as direct hires and subsequently not paying prevailing wages, according to Michelen. The suit is still pending.

Despite the recent Suffolk County indictment, past investigations into the nurses' resignation have come down in their favor.

In April 2006, Sentosa sought a preliminary injunction restraining Vinluan from advising further Sentosa employees

to resign. This was denied in New York State Supreme Court by Judge Stephen Bucaria, who wrote in his decision that the "plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate either a likelihood of success on the merits or a balancing of equities in their favor on either their breach of contract or tortious interference claim against the defendants."

The state Education Department, responsible for licensing nurses, also conducted an investigation last year based on Sentosa's complaint of endangerment of patients. According to a September 2006 email to Vinluan from Director of Investigations Daniel Kelleher, the case was closed with no action taken by the Education Department against the nurses.

Letters

There never was

an education

formula based

on equality and

citizens in any

district could

particular school

afford to spend.

need or how much

Continued from page A22

Contrary to your editorial opinion there is no objective evidence to confirm your assertion that Long Island has been unfairly treated in the past. In fact evidence submitted under oath by acknowledged experts in a court of law and under the fear of a perjury confirmed the public was field to fin years about the existence of an education formula. There never was an education formula based on equality and need

or how much citizens in any particular school district could afford to spend. School aid was based purely on political scheming and raw politics.

Besides the obvious benefits to our local school districts from increases of school aid demanded by our local officials this year is the welcome fact that the extra tax burden will come from broad based taxes rather than from the corrupted real estate tax

system. More than likely this will be a one-time event for Long Island but it will not materially change the amount of aid the governor correctly requested for New York City and other urban areas in desperate need of state assistance. Even Senator Skelos, the leader of the Long Island delegation, honestly acknowledged that the Spitzer formula would make it difficult for Long Island to sustain the extra allocation provided this year.

The changes agreed to this year are just a small beginning in fixing the pathetic and dishonest way many elected officials have acted in meeting their responsibility to provide a meaningful education for all students in a way that shares our common hurdens equitably. Much more needs to be accomplished especially in devising a fairer way to tap into the vast resources of our economy to pay for education.

The sad truth it is that it is not unreasonable to conclude that in some ways the budget is a step backward and more of the same because the changes were agreed to in the same old corrupting and business as usual "three men in a room" political process rather than a public and healthy democratic debate involving everyone.

Yes, it is a beginning but it does little to repair all the other dysfunctional state governmental processes that our local elected officials have successfully tried to disguise as good and responsible government. But that is an entirely different matter, All one has to do is read the report on state government by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law to confirm the sorry state of affairs in Albany.

Leo Montagna Northport

g Duck to return home

creates some But red tape waddling

By Tim Gannon

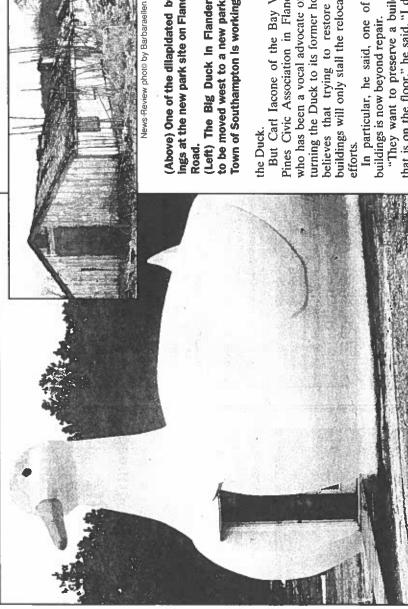
cerned that Southampton Town's efbuildings on the former Big Duck site in Flanders are stalling efforts to bring Some Flanders residents are conforts to restore some old, broken-down the Duck itself back to that site.

The town has pledged to bring the cated money in its capital budget for Big Duck back to its former location on Flanders Road, and has even allothe project.

erhead in 1930, was moved to Flanders historic building that originated in Rivpeared that its former site was going to The Duck, a nationally registered in 1937, and then was moved in 1987 to a site farther east on Flanders Road, near Bellows Pond Road, when it apbe developed.

pened, and that land eventually was But the development never hapacquired by Southampton Town.

with the county to transfer the Duck to The Duck itself is now owned by its old site is needed before the move Suffolk County, and an agreement



two old buildings on the site to serve as a reception area and a museum reflectng the history of the duck industry in Southampton Supervisor Skip Heaney has said the town plans to return the Duck to the old site and to restore

the region. There also could be hiking trails on the property, he said.

Mr. Heaney said the town is concentrating on preparing the site for the Duck's return before it begins working on legislation with the county to return

ngs at the new park site on Flanders Above) One of the dilapidated build(Left) The Big Duck in Flanders is to be moved west to a new park the fown of Southampton is working on. But Carl Iacone of the Bay View believes that trying to restore the Pines Civic Association in Flanders, who has been a vocal advocate of returning the Duck to its former home, buildings will only stall the relocation

In particular, he said, one of the buildings is now beyond repair.

"They want to preserve a building that is on the floor," he said. "I don't even think you could burn wood with that building."

marks and Historic Districts Board recently indicated it does want to pre-Mr. Iacone said the town's Land-

See Big Duck, page 33

rience. We studied things like trainclaws and arrest techniques."

The students also did the Firearms Training System, or FATS, which is a simulated exercise in which trainees must react to situations being shown on a screen. The screen is interactive and the situations can be altered by the instructor. Trainees must decide whether or not to use force in particular situations.

"It was absolutely amazing," said

step in the right direction. And now he's going to go out and serve his country for a few years."

Mr. Abarno, himself a retired police officer, said that Anthony Rocco, the chief of department at the Nassau County Police Department, and Deputy Chief Mark White of the Suffolk County Police Department, were instrumental in setting up the academy program for BOCES.

Big Duck...

►From page 22

serve half of that building, and has said a State Historic Preservation Offices grant of \$16,000 is available for the effort. The grant is a matching grant, with the town also paying \$16,000.

Mr. Iacone said he believes it will take more than \$32,000 to restore the building, which is now half collapsed.

"It's an eyesore," he said. "That building is useless. The community is telling them we don't want it restored, and they are not listening."

He believes the town is concerned about liability from the dilapidated buildings.

Mr. Iacone said residents originally supported the restoration of the buildings, but that they were in much better condition at that time.

Chrissy Prete, a Flanders resident and former member of the Landmarks and Historic Districts Board, said obtaining grant money may not be a bad thing. She said that by accepting the grant money, it will enable the town to obtain additional grants in the future to fix up the site.

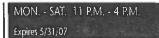
Mike Brewer, the president of the Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association, said he would rather see the town just fence off the property until the Duck is brought back.

Charles Bellows, the chairman of the Landmarks and Historic District Board, said the Landmarks board's efforts to preserve the buildings are independent of the town's efforts to bring back the Duck and are not delaying that process.

He said that restoring the buildings, one of which was a duck hatchery, "will complete the site in terms of showing the history of the duck industry on Long Island."

He said the process takes time but that it will be worth it in the end, because this represents one of the last remaining opportunities to preserve the history of the Long Island duck industry.





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APPETIZERS (Select one)

Soup du Jour Wild Mushroom Strudel Baby Spinach Salad

ENTRÉES (Select one)

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DESSERTS (Select one)

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Old English Trifle
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July

the federal level.

ider neer for the U.S. Army rs, the two senators and nanded that the departlan that will eliminate ve created a three-year ing projects across the deral agency serves as en the Suffolk Coun-Pen the Surrolk Coun-f Public Works, which mpletes most dredging ounty, and the federal the U.S. Fish and Wild-have the power to ap-

JECTS, Page A8

ırns Fatal

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mpton Bays man died l during a domestic dis-Suffolk County Police

however, is whether leath was the result of an argument or a hoto Detective Lieutent of the Suffolk County

k said Mr. Stoeckert's

BING, Page A7

LONG ISLAND **TOURIST INFO** STEVE LEVY OPEN

The Big Duck on its current nest.

County, **Town Prepare** To Ink Accord

Big Duck will return to its old nest soon

By Andrew Kesliner

The Big Duck could return to its former home on County Road 24 in Flanders as early as this fall, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy announced this week.

The estimated timetable indicates that Southampton Town and Suffolk County officials are closing in on a final plan to re locate the landmark, which is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. The county intends to move the landmark from its current location on Route 24, near from its current location on Route 24, near Sears Bellows County Park on the Flan-ders-Hampton Bays border, to its former address, just north of Firehouse Lane on Route 24 in Flanders. In 1988, the county purchased the Big Duck and moved it from Flanders—its second home since it was originally con-

structed on Main Street in Riverhead-to

its current location near the county park.
"This duck has been a part of the East End identity for decades and we will con-tinue to maintain it in its glorious condition, so that future generations can enjoy it as well." Mr. Levy said on Tuesday. "If all goes well, we hope that it will be in place

goes wen, we nope that it with the pace and in its new home in the fall."

Tracey Bellone, acting Suffolk County Parks Commissioner, estimated the Big Duck holiday lighting in November will take place at the Duck's former location.

Under the terms of the solidifying deal, Southampton Town will allow the county, at no cost, to keep the Big Duck on the site for the next 99 years. The county will also have the option of renewing the agree-

ment once it expires.

The town will maintain the 37.5 acres of town-owned parkland in Flanders on which the landmark will be relocated, while the county will retain ownership of the Big Duck and be responsible for man-aging its interior. Information on other tourist destinations on the North and

See NEST, Page A7

y' Echoes Whispers in Village

y they moved to bu-e because they were igly idyllic rural life. may also be a dark quiet village as well. t one frustrated resi-

a non-practicing at-timillion-dollar lawist the village and its

wants to come for ward," said said Ms. Williams, who is seek-ing\$4 million damages from the village. She notes that



In February 2006, Dale Bender of East Quogue filed a suit seeking \$1 million in damages, plus reimbursement for legal expenses, alleging that he was wrongfully arrested for grand larceny. The charges filed against Mr. Bender were dismissed by the village court in December 2005,

That case is still pending.

Ms. Williams's lawsuit is the result of an arrest made by Village Police officers lohn Donoway and Joseph Dolomite.





Suffolk County and Southampton Town officials are one step closer to relocating the Big Duck to this town-owned parcel on Route 24 in Flanders

NEST: Duck Planning for Fall Migration

FROM PAGE A1

South forks will still be available inside the structure. In addition, the county will now be allowed to hold special events at the site, which Southampton Town Su-pervisor Patrick Heaney believed would benefit the community.

The town is expected to foot the hill for

relocation costs, which Mr. Heaney has estimated will total less than \$10,000. Under the terms of the agreement, the town will also cover the cost of any dam-ages to the landmark that occur during the actual relocation. Mr. Heaney added that town officials are also going to be responsible for removing the existing foundation for the Big Duck and constructing the new one. The town will also assume the costs for installing wiring and telephone lines at the new location.

Mr. Heaney said this week that attor-neys for Suffolk County and the town are now working together to forge an accord that is acceptable to both parties.

The relocation of the Big Duck will also

require approvals from several different county agencies. According to Ms. Belione, an authorization of the move requires approvals from the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality, Suffolk County Park trustees and the County Legislature.
On Wednesday morning, the CEQ ap

proved the joint application filed by the county and town to move the 77-yearold landmark back to its former address on Route 24. The board also heard testimony from Mr. Heaney, Jeff Murphree, the town's planning and development administrator, Marty Shea, the town's chief environmental analyst and other officials working on the project. CEQ Chairman Larry Swanson thanked

the estimated dozen town residents who attended yesterday's hearing in Hauppauge with assisting the board in reaching a decision. "It helps us in our assessment to see there is community support," he said.

Mr. Heaney called the CEQ's approval of the relocation "a significant hurdle,"

noting that other agencies may now be more inclined to sign off on the project.

If the move goes through as has been promised, it will go down as another chapter in the landmark's notable history. The 20-foot-tall duck served as a roadside stand for duck farmers Martin and Jucle Maurer from 1930 until 1984. However, in 1937, the landmark was moved about four miles to Route 24 in Flanders and remained there until the county purchased the structure and relocated it to county parkland in 1988. In August 2001, Southampton Town

bought the 37.5 acre property in Flan-ders—the former longtime home of the Big Duck—for \$1.65 million. To com-plete the purchase, town officials used \$850,000 from the town's Community Preservation Fund.

Mr. Heaney said town and county officials had been discussing moving the Big Duck, on and off, for the past four years. But in early February, he and Mr. Levy reached a tentative agreement during a private meeting, and Mr. Heaney said the county executive is now behind the proposal-

We're very happy to work with Southampton officials to help move Long Island's Big Duck to a more promi-

nent location," Mr. Levy said.

As Mr. Heaney spoke about the brew-As Mr. really spoke about the bright of the maintained that the Big Duck was a marker of much bigger things in the hamlet. "This is really a defining symbol for the residents of Planders." he said. "It's central to their efforts residents their community. It's an investigation of the property of the second of to revitalize their community. It's an important symbol of pride. This is about identity within Flanders as a community. It speaks deeply to community pride."
On Wednesday, several Flanders resi-

dents who make the trip to Hauppauge said they were pleased with the results. Fran Iacone, the vice president of the Bay View Pines Civic Association, thanked Mr. Heaney for his efforts to return the Big Duck to its former home, "It's our icon," he said of the landmark.

Michael Brewer, president of the Flan-ders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association, agreed. "It's going to be the pride of Flanders," he said.

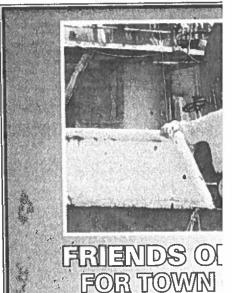
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For torther informa

STABBING: Fight Turns Fatal

FROM PAGE A1

live in girlfriend, 24-year-old Reanna Goss, told police that the two had been arguing when Mr. Stoeckert began men-

acing her with a knife.
"What we have is that she tells us a story about how the stabbing occurred," said Det. It. Fitzpatrick, "She said they had been having domestic problems, and they were in process of splitting up, and she said Mr. Stoeckert picked up a knife and was in the process of menac-ing her. There was a struggle ... and then Mr. Stoeckert was stabbed once in the

He said that Mr. Stoeckert walked up the static that Mr. Stockert wanked up the static of the basement apartment and collapsed in the backyard, and Ms. Goss called 911. Mr. Stockert, who lived with Ms. Goss on Prospect Avenue, was pronounced dead at approximately 12:15 a.m. on Wednesday, about an hour after being taken to Southampton

Police did not take Ms. Goss into custody, and Det. Lt. Fitzpatrick said he did not know if she would face any charges.

Det. Lt. Fitzpatrick said police are unsure at this time what the two were arguing about, but he added that Ms Goss said the couple had filed reports of five domestic disturbances since April 5. though there was no record of any violence in the disputes. Instead, he characterized the incidents as verbal al-

On May 16, Mr. Stoeckert was arrested by Southampton Town Police and charged with petit larceny, a misde-meanor, for allegedly stealing his girt-

friend's cell phone earlier that day.

"We're going to continue the investigation," said Det. Lt. Fitzpatrick, "[Ms. Goss] gave us number of things that we want to check out."

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SPORTS

Correction

The band referred to as East End Freight on the A cover is actually Eastbound Freight.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Thursday, September 27
7:15 p.m.— Riverhead Town Zoning
Board of Appeals, Town Hall.
Tuesday, October 2
7 p.m.—Riverhead Town Board.

Town Hall. Wednesday, October 3

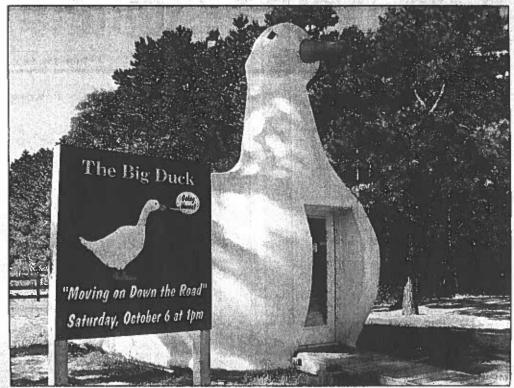
7.30 p.m.—Jamesport Fire District.
Thursday, October 4

p.m.-Riverhead Charter School Board, administration building p.m.—Riverhead Town Planning Board, Town Hall.

BREAKING NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

riverheadnewsreview-com

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The Big Duck will be moved west on Route 24 to its new home in Flanders next to the Flanders Men's Club.

Big Duck to move

Icon will waddle back to its former home

By Tim Gannon

The Big Duck is ready to make a midnight waddle to its new home, and even jumped the gun once.

Southampton Town officials had indicated last week that the Big Duck would make the move back to its former nesting place this Saturday, but later sent out a correction saying the move would take place on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Back in January 1988, the same thing occurred in reverse when the Big Duck was moved from the former Martin Maurer shop on the north side of Flanders Road to its current location farther east, in front of the county's Sears Bellows Park horse stables. Davis Brothers, the company that moved the Duck in 1988, will move the Duck again, and is donating its services, according to town

One big change is that this time, the Duck will make his move under cover of darkness. Flanders Road will be closed to traffic from 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5, to 6 a.m. on Oct. 6. The closure will stretch from Flanders Road's intersection with Sunrise Highway all the way to its intersection with County Road 105. A celebration is scheduled to begin at the new Big Duck location at 1

The 1988 Duck moving was done in broad daylight, and had the feel of a parade, with people following along as the Duck moved down the road.

Deputy supervisor Robert Ross said the Duck is being moved at night for safety reasons at the recommendation of the police department. He said that since 1988, the road has been redone and is higher now, and that there are a number of utility poles that will have to come down in order for the Duck to pass through.

See Big Duck, page 39

5 arrests in beating death

By Tim Gannon

Five men have been arrested in connection with the October 2006 beating death of a Hispanic man in Riverhead, according to Suffolk County Police. Kenneth Hughes, 19, of Deck Street in Flanders, Jared Hysell, 21, of Flanders Road in Flanders, Eric Montez, 28, of Nash Avenue in Flanders and Kristan Miles, 19, of Washington Drive in Mastic Beach all were charged last Wednesday with first-degree gang assault in the death of 35-year-old Jaime Figueroa, who lived on Sylvan Street in Flanders.

A fifth suspect, Lawrence Brown, 33, of Port Charlotte, Fla., was arrested on a warrant in Florida Monday in connection with the case, and he will be arraigned today, after presstime, during which time the charges will be made public, according to police. The warrant was issued by Suffolk County Court, police said.

Mr. Figueroa's body was found in a wooded lot between Union Avenue and Maple Avenue on the morning of Oct. 4, 2006. At the time, police said his death was caused by blunt force trauma.

Detective Lt. Jack Fitzpatrick of the Suffolk County Homicide Squad said Mr. Figueroa is now believed to have been beaten to death the previous night over a drug deal.

"Mr. Figueroa had gone there to buy crack from the suspects and did," Lt. Fitzpatrick said. "Then when he came back later, it made them suspicious that he might be a police informant. He was then kicked in the head and torso until he was unconscious and then they dragged him to a ditch and left him to die.

Lt. Fitzpatrick would not reveal specifically what led

See Beating, page 33

Stark pans vote...

From page 1

Councilwoman Barbara Blass, a Republican who had voted for Riverhead Resorts over a proposal from RexCorp, which included a racetrack, expressed displeasure with Mr. Stark's remarks.

"My decisions are never politically motivated. His comments obviously are." Ms. Blass told The News-Review. "My decisions are always motivated by what's good for the town and I resent when people suggest otherwise."

Ms. Blass, who is not up for re-election this year, said she and her colleagues had carefully reviewed every aspect of each proposal. "It was our opinion that the proposal by Riverhead Resorts better fit the vision for what this Town Board believes is appropriate for the EPCAL site," she said.

Councilman John Dunleavy, a Republican who had also voted for Riverhead Resorts, told the paper, "It's easy to second guess, but if you haven't been in on the complete discussions, you don't know all the factors we considered. I voted for Riverhead Resorts because it's what is best for the total town of Riverhead."

The project, which includes plans to construct a 350-foot-high enclosed ski mountain and a 92-acre man-made lake, won out over a proposal for a theme park from RexCorp and its partner, Petrocelli Construction. Only Councilman Ed Densieski favored RexCorp and voted against Riverhead Resorts. At Tuesday's press conference, Mr. Stark, to the applause of supporters in the audience, praised Mr. Densieski, who was the only Republican on the Town Board to attend.

Mr. Stark saved his sharpest barbs for his Democratic opponent in November's election, two-term Supervisor Phil Cardinale, who is seeking a third term.

"Now it is election time, or is it Christmas time from Santa Cardinale with his wild promises again?" Mr. Stark asked. "After having wasted almost four years and thousands of hours on proposals that never went anywhere, we have a desperate attempt to show movement a few weeks before the election in the form of a vote for a project that will go nowhere."

Growing more caustic, he said, "The good news is that the state of South Dakota has Mount Rushmore and Riverhead will have Mount Cardinale. Praise the lord and pass the ammunition. The people of Riverhead are going to war over this second debacle in the town under Phil's leadership." He described the first debacle as the cost overruns at the Youngs Avenue landfill reclamation project, the subject of Mr. Stark's first campaign press conference last week.

"Time to fool the voters again," said Mr. Stark, 70, who served as supervisor in 1996 and 1997. "Last time it was 'on time and under budget' for the landfill project. We all know how that worked out. More than \$46 million spent and the landfill is still there!"

Mr. Stark said that the Riverhead Resorts project was doomed to fail for a number of reasons, including the fact that to build a 350-foot-high mountain, the developers "would need a variance to the tune of 75 percent relief" over what town zoning allows.

He also said that a 92-acre man-made lake would "endanger our water supply" or become, perhaps, "just another sand mine operation is disguise." In ad-

dition, he said, the FAA would never permit the moving of its air traffic control beacon, located just to the north of the proposed mountain. The beacon signal would be disrupted and become an immediate hazard to all commercial flights on the east coast should the mountain be built, he said. That alone, he said, would ensure that the case would be tied up in the courts for years.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook," Mr. Stark said. "People are viably upset with the way the Town Board voted. They're looking for tax relief, and RexCorp is the one that could have delivered it the quickest. The bottom line is, we're not getting a snow mountain. Riverhead is getting a Cardinale snow job."

Big Duck...

From page 2

"We wanted it in the daytime, but it was just not going to work," Mr. Ross said. Flanders residents apparently are happy either way.

"It's finally coming home," said Flanders resident Carl lacone, who has been a vocal supporter of bringing the Duck back to its former location. "For five years, we've been pushing for this."

Mike Brewer, president of the Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association, said his organization is hoping to have an annual carnival and parade culminating at the Big Duck site next summer.

In 1987, the Big Duck's old site — which will soon be its new site — was being planned for development, and the Big Duck was donated to Suffolk County by the landowners at the time, Kia and Pouran Eshgi, but had to be moved to a different site.

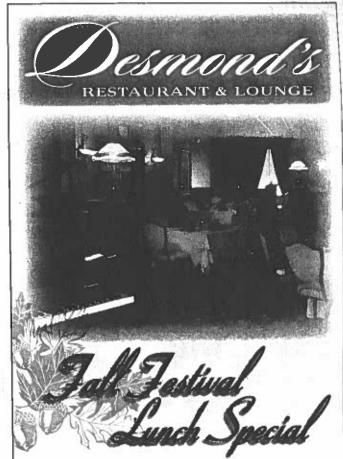
But the development never occurred, and Southampton Town acquired the site as parkland about seven years ago.

In 2001, Southampton Supervisor Skip Heaney, then a councilman who had just been elected supervisor, announced at a FRANCA meeting that he was including money in the town capital budget to bring the Big Duck back to its prior site. However, since the deal that turned ownership of the Big Duck over to the county required that it be on county land and on Route 24, agreements needed to be worked out between the town and county before the move could take place.

The Big Duck was built in 1931 by Mr. Maurer, a German immigrant who had a duck farm in Riverhead Town and used the Big Duck as a store, according to a history supplied by Kornelia Kurbjuhn, a member of Southampton Town's landmarks board.

Mr. Mauer later bought land in Flanders and moved the Big Duck there in 1936, at the location it will return to on Oct. 6. From 1936 to 1988, the Big Duck stood at that location, surviving both the 1938 Hurricane and World War II, during which Ms. Kurbjuhn says it was blackened so it wouldn't be visible to overhead planes. It also was hit by a car in 1973, but sustained only \$140 worth of damage, Ms. Kurbjuhn said.

And, in case you were wondering, Ms. Kurbjuhn even included a tale of the tape. The Big Duck is 15 feet tall, 10 feet wide, 20 feet long and weighs eight tops.



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WILLMOTTS & WHY NOTS

David J. Willmott Sr., Editor & Publisher

Licenses For Illegals

overnor Eliot Spitzer has ordered his commissioner of motor vehicles to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Spitzer claims that these illegals are driving illegally without licenses because the state will not issue licenses without proper credentials. Spitzer maintains that these licenses will generate fees that the state needs, and said the illegals will have to obtain car insurance, which will cut down on the cost of uninsured motorist charges on insurance policies.

This past spring, New York State Senator John Flanagan proposed legislation banning the Department of Motor Vehicles from issuing drivers' licenses to illegals. He had the foresight to anticipate Spitzer's actions. The measure passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, but has not seen the light of day in the Assembly, which is heavily controlled by the Democrats. If you are offended by the governor's action, call your Assembly representative and tell him or her to bring this bill out of committee for a vote.

Residents across New York State are outraged. They see giving these illegals official state recognition and state-issued identification as wrong, particularly with today's concerns about homeland security. A driver's license, which is a photo identification, can be used by these illegals to fly. It gives them legitimacy.

We were not surprised by Governor Spitzer's actions, as he is a liberal who kowtows to the minorities at the expense of the majority. If illegal immigrants want to drive in New York and be licensed, they can secure a driver's license in their country of origin. This license can then be converted to an international driver's license. They don't need New York State driver's licenses. A license is a

privilege, not a right.

Learning of the second

Where does Spitzer get off granting privileges to illegals? Will the illegal applicants have to prove they can drive and pass a road and written test? Will the test be printed in English, and not in Spanish? If the applicants are allowed to take the test in Spanish because they cannot read English, how will they be able to read road signs and other directives?

Spitzer may be kowtowing to the Hispanic vote, but it will cost him far more because the average citizen throughout New York is outraged.

And why not?

Riverhead Resort: A Reality Or Just A Pipe Dream?

Suffolk Life's editorial board recently had a conversation with Riverhead Town Supervisor Phil Cardinale, Cardinale waxed elegantly about the proposed Riverhead Resort for Riverhead Town

Riverhead Town.

The proposal, according to Cardinale, will give Riverhead \$155 million in needed funds through the sale of the EPCAL property. There will be enough money to pay off the bonded indebtedness of the town and still have money left over. When the property is built out, tax contributions will provide the funding for one-third of the town's budget. Cardinale sees huge benefits when the tourists bring their dollars, helping the entire town.

When we started to press for details, Cardinale became vague. He acknowledged that the 35-story ski mountain may never be built. He didn't seem concerned that the mountain might interfere with aviation, nor was he concerned that a runway built to handle massive jets would have to be destroyed.

We reminded Cardinale that history will help us if we learn from it. A prior town board authorized the creation of an artificial lake on the EPCAL property. The lake was to be utilized by surfers. The hole was dug. The dirt was

carted off. The operators abandoned the project. The developer had never been required to post a performance bond, and the town got taken.

Riverhead Resorts is an extremely ambitious project. To ensure that it is completed, the town has a fiduciary responsibility to require that the investors post a performance bond, requiring that each phase of the project be completed on time.

The former Grumman site, called

EPCAL, was given to the town of Riverhead for \$1. It was a golden goose that could have provided a steady stream of income for the town. The town sold the core of the Calverton property for \$17,000,000. The property contained nearly 500 acres and 1,100,000 square feet of very well-constructed buildings. At the time, many charged that the town did not sell the parcel but gave it away.

Since then, there have been numerous proposals for utilization of the property. The town has waffled and been indecisive. The Riverhead Resort plan is intriguing, but the town must ensure that it is more than an idea; it must secure performance bonds that the investors can't walk away from.

On one hand, we congratulate Cardinale for making the decision, but on the other hand, we caution him that he needs solid guarantees that the proposal will become a reality.

And why not?

Big Duck Flying The Coop

n Friday night, October 5, the world famous Big Duck will fly the coop from the nest it now occupies on Flanders Road in Hampton Bays back to its second home near Reeves Bay

The Big Duck was originally built as a store in Riverhead. The duck was moved to Flanders in the late '40s, where it was again operated as a poultry store. Behind the Big Duck's nest was a working duck farm. The town has saved one of the duck buildings and plans to recreate a duck farm as a tourist attraction.

Back in the early '60s, we were at

the bar in the Elbow Room in Jamesport. Also at the bar was a group of fly boys from the Air Force base. They were having a conversation about taking one of the Huey's from the airbase and using it to snatch the Big Duck from its nest and place it on Iron Point, which is at the mouth of the Peconic River and the Peconic Bay across from the Indian Island Golf Course.

The fly boys planned the heist in the middle of the night and by morning people would be startled to find that the Big Duck had migrated north. When the effects of the beer wore off, the fly boys decided that although it

was a great prank, they would get into a lot of trouble and abandoned the idea.

We are glad to see the Big Duck is coming home. To the people of Flanders, the Big Duck has been a symbol of pride.

Thinking about this editorial the thought crossed our mind that the Big Duck does not have a name. We welcome suggestions from our readers for appropriate names for this symbol of Long Island. Email us at news@suffolklife.com or send us a snail mail with your suggestions. We will publish the best ones.

And why not?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should illegal immigrants be able to obtain New York State drivers' licenses?

Let us know what you think at:

www.suffolklife.com
RESUITS:

Should the state take over the job of hiring teachers?

62.5% said "Yes" 37.5% said "No" It's Only In Suffolk Life: For the latest in news about your community and your government, turn to the newspaper that gives you a voice. It's only in Suffolk Life, and it's always in Suffolk Life. Subscribe to Suffolk Life. Subscribe today!

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Story, A7

NDEX

he and his mother,

The Big Duck prior to its move from Flanders to Hampton Bays in 1988.

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Big Duck for Pending Move By Caroline Simson

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Much like the world's second largest ball of twine put the small Minnesota city of Darwin (population 276) on the map upon its completion in 1950, the kitschy Big Duck has landed Flanders on the atlas of

In fact, the Big Duck has seen used as a model on which all "duck architecthe East End in 1931.

sides near Sears Bellows County Park, on the south side of Handers Road—at least res, the same term does specifically describe the famous local landmark that reture"-that is, any build-ing shaped to look like the product it is marketing-is now based. And

The Big Duck is now being prepared to be moved back to the nest that it had originally was featured on Main Street in on Flanders Road in Flanders, just east of the firehouse, in 1936. It remained there called home for the longest part of its 76year history. Though the structure, com-Riverhead, it was moved onto the property known as "The Big Duck Ranch," located missioned in 1929 and completed in 193

for the next 52 years, before moving to its current site in 1988.

The Westhampton Beach-based firm Davis Construction House and Building Movers will be helping the Big Duck complete its historic migration back to what er its correct home. The many people consid-

almost ready to return Flanders landmark to its former nest

the temporary reloca-tion of overhead wires, is set to start at 11 p.m. this Friday, October 5,

and be completed early

move, which requires

ders Road will be closed in both directions in the area between 11 Saturday morning. Flan p.m. and 6 a.m.

House and Building Movers, who is moving the duck at no charge. I'm looking forward to it, because it's for the community, the town and Handers. I'm from Davis, the owner of Davis Construction Westhampton Beach, and I just think it's a "I'm excited about the move," said Guy

Though it was moved to the Hampton Bays border in January 1988, when it was believed that a developer might not nice thing to do.

See LANDMARK, Page A18

PRESS FILE PHOTO

About the Big Duck

inspired by roadside structures he observed there.

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 The Big Duck is actually modeled after a live Pekin duck that was tethered to the deck of Jack, Bill and James Joseph Collins. The Collins brothers, who had previously worked as set designers on Broadway, designed the structure.

 The Big Duck is 15 feet tall, 10 feet wide, 20 feet long, and weighs approximately 16,500 pounds. The duck features a wooden frame that is covered with wire mesh. The exterior of the duck is concrete.

 Mr. Maurer obtained a patent for his duck on August 17, 1931. Originally designed to market items sold at Mr. Maurer's duck farm, the structure's architecture was later labeled as "duck architecture," a term that's still used to describe any structure designed to resemble the shape of a product it is marketing. (For example, a coffee house shaped like a coffee pot.)

· The landmark's first nest was on Main Street in Riverhead, where it was located for about five years.

The Big Duck was moved to The Big

Duck Ranch, located on the north side of Flanders Road, in 1936.

 The eyes of the Big Duck, which glow red at night, are actually the taillights of a Model T Ford, according to the website www.RoadsideAmerica.com.

During World War II, the white landmark was blackened to make the structure less visible to enemy airplanes.

 Mr. Maurer sold his farmland in Flanders—and the Big Duck—in 1952 to Leonard Desson. Though he did not operate a farm, Mr. Desson continued to sell duck meat, duck manure and other products from inside the structure until 1970, when he sold the land to Mario and lean Colombo.

A car struck the Big Duck in 1973, according to town records. The structure sustained \$140 worth of damage in the accident.

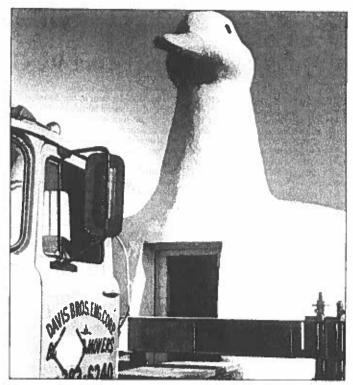
 Mario and lean Colombo continued to sell duck products at the stand until they leased the Big Duck to James Navas a few years later. Mr. Navas operated a hero shop inside the landmark from 1972 until 1986, when it was sold to Kia and Pouran Eshgi.

 The Big Duck was donated to Suffolk County in 1986.

• Suffolk County spent \$30,000 to restore the structure in 1987 before hiring a company to move the Big Duck the following year to its current nest, near the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park.

 In 1997, the Big Duck was added to the National Register of Historic Places, designating it as an official historic land-

• Today, the interior of the Big Duck serves as a gift shop and museum, featuring literature that describes the East End's history as one of the former leading duck producing regions in the Unit-



The Big Duck on the move in 1988.

PRESS ELLE PHOTOS

LANDMARK: Big Duck Will Take Flight Friday

FROM PAGE A1

preserve it, the Big Duck's path home has been paved by Suffolk County and Southampton Town. The agreement came to fruition after years of requests from the Flanders community and negotiations between the town and county.

The Big Duck will be moved about three miles north on Flanders Road to the site of the original duck farm, The Big Duck Ranch, where eggs, duck meat and duck manure were once sold. A dedication ceremony will be held at the famous fowl's new old nest on Saturday, October 6, starting at 1 p.m.

The historic relocation, set to begin at

11 p.m. tomorrow, is expected to take about three hours to complete. The Big Duck must be lifted off of its foundation and set on steel beams that will be placed atop of self-propelled dollies that will guide the landmark to its new home.

"This will be quite the undertaking," said Robert Ross, the deputy supervisor of Southampton Town, "I've done a lot of crazy things since I've been here, and this is definitely the craziest.

Though he will not give the Big Duck any special treatment—he says all of his clients receive special treatment—Mr. Davis said he feels special for being entrusted to make the move. Mr. Davis, who says he helped move the landmark in 1988 when he was with Davis Brothers Engineering Corporation, before later starting his own business, is confidant that he has the experience to handle

Mr. Davis explained that his workers have spent the last few days preparing equipment for the big move, including tapping a new technology: self-propelled dollies. He noted that the devices have only been used a handful of

He explained that his company will first use hydraulic jacks to raise the 16,500-pound landmark and place steel beams underneath the structure, which will create a kind of cradle. The Big Duck will then be moved using the self-propelled dollies, which can be directed via remote control.

And that kind of precise control is just what is called for in this situation, according to Mr. Davis.

This is something new to the industry," he said about the dollies, "We're one of four movers in the country that has this technology. It's a lot of fun, and it makes it a lot safer to use this system.

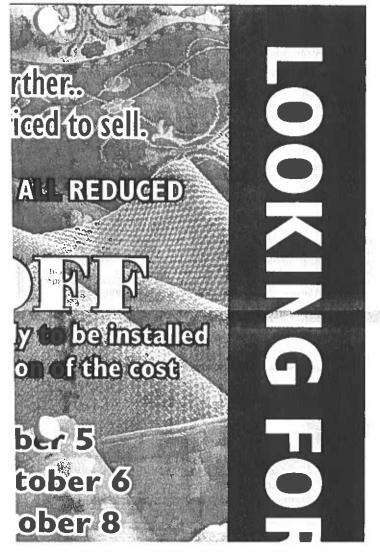
"The duck is very fragile," he contin-

ued. "It's almost like moving a little egg-You can't twist it or tweak it in any way, or it will develop cracks. There are a few cracks already, so you want to be as careful as possible by putting the duck on hy-draulic dollies. It climinates any stress."

Utilizing remote controls enables the workers to make more precise move-ments when they need to slow down to allow utility companies to lower overhead wires and ensure that the 20foot-tall duck will be able to waddle underneath them.

Up until very recently he explained, buildings were moved using hydrau-lic jacks and loading the structures onto trucks, which had to be manually stopped and started by a driver The somewhat jerky motion of the truck made it a little more difficult to move delicate structures.

On Saturday morning, the historic structure will be placed on a permanent foundation, marking the end of its long awaited trip back home for residents who have fought hard to reclaim their famous feathered friend.



Facts and Figures About the Big Duck

I'ew places in the country can lay claim that they are home to America's most beloved examples of wacky roadside architecture. Handers is one of them.

moved to its current roost near Sears er might destroy the structure to make room for condominiums. However, in to Suffolk County and, two years later, ly came to an end in the mid-1980s, when it was thought that a develop-1986, the historic landmark was donated The Big Duck's history is one that near

Bellows County Park, near the Hampton Bays border.

ing, the landmark will be moved back to its best-known home-the site of The Big Duck Ranch on Handers Road-where it This Friday night and Saturday mornhad spent most of the past 76 years.

Here are a few fun facts and figures about the Big Duck:

ed in 1931, was commissioned in 1929 by Martin Maurer of Riverhead after he went on a road trip to California and was The landmark, which was complet-

inspired by roadside structures he ob-

a live Pekin duck that was tethered to the deck of Jack, Bill and James Joseph previously worked as set designers on The Big Duck is actually modeled after Collins. The Collins brothers, who had The Big Duck is 15 feet tall, 10 feet wide, Broadway, designed the structure.

chitecture was later labeled as "duck architecture," a term that's still used to • Mr. Maurer obtained a patent for his duck on August 17, 1931. Originally designed to market items sold at Mr. Maurer's duck farm, the structure's ar-20 feet long, and weighs approximately 16,500 pounds. The duck features a wooden frame that is covered with wire mesh. The exterior of the duck is concrete.

 The landmark's first nest was on Main Street in Riverhead, where it was located shaped like a coffee pot.)

◆The Big Duck was moved to The Big Duck Ranch, located on the north side of Flanders Road, in 1936. for about five years.

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 ◆ During World War II, the white landmark was blackened to make the structure less visible to enemy airplanes.

1970, when he sold the land to Mario ◆Mr. Maurer sold his farmland in Flanders-and the Big Duck-in 1952 to sell duck meat, duck manure and other products from inside the structure until Leonard Desson. Though he did not operate a farm, Mr. Desson continued and Jean Colombo.

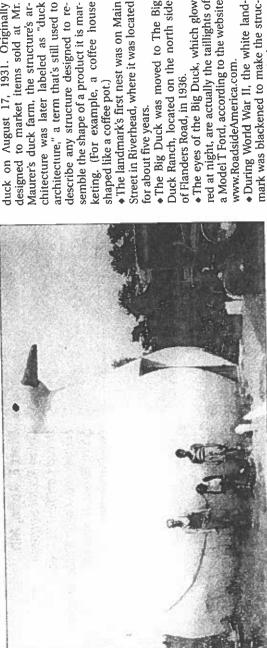
sustained \$140 worth of damage in the cording to town records. The structure A car struck the Big Duck in 1973, acaccident.

years later. Mr. Navas operated a hero shop inside the landmark from 1972 until 1986, when it was sold to Kia and ◆Mario and Jean Colombo continued to sell duck products at the stand until they leased the Big Duck to James Navas a few

◆The Big Duck was donated to Suffolk County in 1986. 20uran Eshgi.

store the structure in 1987 before hiring lowing year to its current nest, near the In 1997, the Big Duck was added to the National Register of Historic Places, des-◆Suffolk County spent \$30,000 to reignating it as an official historic landa company to move the Big Duck the folentrance to Sears Bellows County Park.

◆Today, the interior of the Big Duck serves as a gift shop and museum, featuring literature that describes the East End's history as one of the former leading duck producing regions in the Unitmark.



A family poses for a photograph near the Big Duck in the 1930s.



The Big Di

Getting ready for new roost

BY MITCHELL FREEDMAN

mitchell.freedman@newsday.com

Guy Davis' house-moving firm has moved bigger structures, older structures and heavier structures — over both land and the Great South Bay. But in the famous and locally beloved Big Duck Davis faces a rare lift.

Big Duck, Davis faces a rare lift.
"It's fragile," Davis said yesterday as he twisted knobs to adjust hydraulic pressure in the lines under the Big Duck. "It could crack like an egg.".

The Big Duck, you see, may weigh 20,000 pounds and rise 15 feet high, but the structure mainly is wire mesh with a sprayed-on layer of concrete. Tonight about 10:30, Davis and his workers will undertake to move the landmarked icon from Sears Bellows County Park, its home since 1988, to its prior nesting place in Flanders four miles away.

If anyone has the experience to move the Big Duck, it's Davis. He was foreman of the crew that brought it to its current location 19 years ago.

Then, the move was simpler. The Big Duck was lifted onto a flatbed trailer and driven four miles along Route 24 with a state police escort. Men holding big poles rode along, using the poles to lift electrical wires overhead so the duck's head passed safely underneath.

Now there are a lot more lines — electric and cable and fiber-optic. Police will close Route 24 from about 10:30 tonight to about 6 a.m. tomorrow. Officers from the Southampton Town police department, state police and Suffolk County Park Police will be involved along with utility crews and staff from the Southampton Town engineering department.

Three men in Davis' crew will move the Big Duck, which will be cradled in a nest of steel beams and moved down the road by remote-control-operated, selfpropelled hydraulic dollies.

The Big Duck will swim to its



new home, sort of, on a cushion of oil, which will reduce the chance of it cracking or twisting.

The product of farmer George Reeve and his brothers, William and Samuel Collins, who were professional set designers, it dates back to 1931. From the duck's original roost on West Main Street in Riverhead, it was moved to Route 24 in Flanders — to a location overlooking Flanders Bay — in 1936, and remained there until 1988.

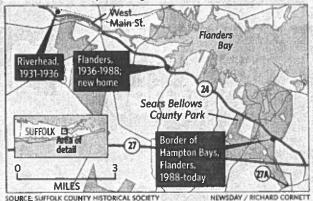
But then, that property had been sold and the new owner wanted to build houses there, so the duck was donated to the county and moved to its current county park home.

The proposed houses never were built, and Southampton Town eventually acquired the property, demolished some decaying buildings and prepared part of the land to bring their Big Duck back home to the spot overlooking Flanders Bay.

Workers for Guy Davis' house-moving firm work to lift the Big Duck off its foundation in preparation for its move tonight back to its former location in Flanders.

Another nest

The Big Duck is to be moved from the Hampton Bays-Flanders border tonight to Flanders proper. Verizon will temporarily lower cables in 10 spots along the four-mile route.





Please Join



Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy

and

Southampton Town Supervisor Patrick A. Heaney

At the Homecoming Ceremony Commemorating

The Historic Move of the "Big Duck"

Back to Its Former Home

On Saturday, October 6th, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.

Ceremony will take place at the
"Big Duck" Property

1012 Flanders Road (State Road 24)

Flanders, NY

(Next to the Flanders Mens Club)

Information: (631) 283-6055

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should've opened something was important, he If the town supervisor thought

Linda Kabot

his mouth.'

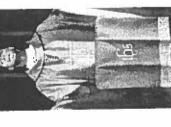
Southampton Town Board

Member

on Town Supervisor Patrick Heaney's charge that she and other board members met in secret to discuss his proposed budget.

Story, A5

INSIDE



juestions, no answers Doubt," John Patrick



Carl lacone, the president of the Barview Pines Civic Association and a voca supporter of the Big Duck's move back

Several in attendance greeted the Big Duck with the kazoo like sounds of the plastic duck calls purchased on site at its rectaimed home off Route 24 in Flanders

ange nesting behemoth at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday afternoon

gawk and squawk at the white-and-or-

By Dawn Watson The Big Duck has finally flown its coop in Hampton Bays and returned to rule its

old roost in Flanders.

way back to Flanders

Landmark makes its

The giant, 16,300-pound waterfowl's migration began at 15:20 p.m. on Friday. The concrete landmark, believed to be modeled after a Pekin drake, alighted on

a.m. on Saturday, after completing the four-mile trip up a closed Route 24.
A crowd of nearly 300 people came to

his nest in Flanders at approximately 3:45

Shanley's Tony- and Pulitzer Prizewinning play, opens in Quogue this week, **B1**

SHPRSS 10/11/07

Big Duck Returns to Former Roost

The Big Duck made its 4-mile migration down Route 24 to its new home in Flanders in the wee hours of Saturday morning.



Approximately 300 people turned out on Saturday to take a gander at the Big Duck upon its return to Flanders. Durwantso

"Ya hear that? That's our duck call, and the Big Duck heard it, and she's back See QUACK, Page A6

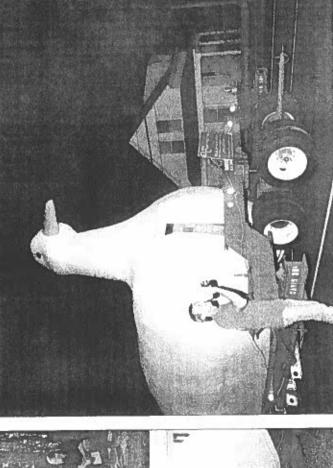
began his speech with a cacophory that sounded like a cross between a whoopie cushion and Model T Ferd's horn.

ment when he took the stage wearing a Something To Quark About. I shirt and

to its former home, summed up the mo-



On Friday afternoon, the Big Duck was jacked up in preparation for its move.



At about 2 a.m. on Saturday, the duck glided down Route 24 into Flanders.

DANA SHAW PHOTOS

Warm Reception at Former Roost **QUACK:** The Big Duck Receives

where she belongs, right here in Flanders," Mr. lacone said as he addressed the wildly applauding crowd. "I saw her coming down the street at 2:30 la.m.], and I gotta tell ya, it gave me duck pim-

to the hamlet.

ples."
Fist raised in the air, Mr. lacone then proclaimed Saturday "Duck Day in Flanders." The gathered crowd, which consisted

him on the cheek.

turning to its former home.

"We stayed up and waited for it, and
"The oglad he is back." Ms. lacone said.

"The whole community knows he belongs here, and here is where he shall mostly of hamler residents, had plenty to crow about when they saw the Big Duck rolling down Route 24 early on Fran, said she was moved by emotion when she saw the giant waterfowl re-Saturday morning. Mr. facone's wife,

Guy Davis, the owner of Davis Con-struction House and Building Movers



At about 7:30 a.m., the duck was backed up onto its new nest in Flanders.

pervisor Phil Cardinale, Southampton Town Board member Linda Kabot, who is challenging Mr. Heaney for supervi-Nuzzi and Nancy Graboski. The politi-cians all managed to pose together for a photo op even though they were upsaged by "Quackerjack," the mascot for the Long Island Ducks minor league sor, and Town Board members Chris





Warm Reception at Former Roost QUACK: The Big Duck Receives

At about 2 a.m. on Saturday, the duck glided down Route 24 into Flanders.

gether. He also said he was hopeful that the attraction would draw more visitors Many people praised Mr. Heaney's in-

to the hamlet.

Flanders

Putting aside personal politics for the

him on the cheek.

dance were State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr., Suffolk County Legislator lay Schneiderman, Riverhead Town Su-

day, other prominent officials in atten

to crow about when they saw the Big Duck rolling down Route 24 early on Fran, said she was moved by emotion Saturday morning. Mr. lacone's wife, when she saw the giant waterfowl re-

turning to its former home.
"We stayed up and waited for it, and I'm so glad he is back." Ms lacone said.
"The whole community knows he belongs here, and here is where he shall

struction House and Building Movers in Westhampton Beach, oversaw the monumental task of moving the land-mark, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Asked why he volunteered to move the 15-foot-tall, 10-foot-wide and 20-foot-long colos-sus, he said simply, "It was just the right Guy Davis, the owner of Davis Con-

Sporting his '00" jersey the Big Duck's namesake of sorts sitently gave a winged wave to his much larger web-footed

Constructed in 1931, the Big Duck nested for a short time on Main Street in Riverhead before being relocated to

friend when he was called to the stage

Flanders about five years later. It remained at its current site until 1988, when it was relocated to Sears Bellows

who presided over the press conference and ribbon-cutting ceremony, said he was impressed by Mr. Davis's generosity of spirit. Mr. Levy presented Mr. Davis with a certificate of appreciation for his thing to do." Suffolk County Executive Steve Lev);

Southampton Town Supervisor Pat-rick Heaney, who assisted Mr. Levy in the emcee duties, had been trying for several years to move the landmark back to Flanders, as part of an effort to and eggs at the Big Duck at its current location with his mother when he was a boy; said he is very proud of his conto its "nightful location in the hamlet of revitalize the community. Mr. Heaney who said he recalls shopping for poultry tribution in returning the monumen

Everything was locked down tight for the big move on Friday.

ew colon Rectal



At about 7:30 a.m., the duck was backed up onto





own ZIP code—number 11902.

varience Mag 6@\$9.994 Pindar Winter White

66'01\$....

of the Big Duck, the hamlet's unofficial mascot, has brought the community to-

where she belongs, right here in Flanders. Mr. lacone said as he addressed the wildly applauding crowd. 'I saw her coming down the street at 2:30 [a.m.], and I gotta tell ya, it gave me duck pim-

Fist raised in the air, Mr. Iacone then proclaimed Saturday "Duck Day in

The gathered crowd, which consisted mostly of hamlet residents, had plenty

Nuzzi and Nancy Graboski. The politi-cians all managed to pose together for a photo op even though they were up-staged by "Quackerjack", the mascot

for the Long Island Ducks minor league

act of community service.

ation Department

Mr. lacone said he spoke for all Flan-ders residents in stating that the return



On Saturday afternoon, the ribbon was cut by tov

Please John us in usting winc Saturdays cone said. "We want Flanders to have ZIP code 11902 to make it whole, as it should be." who made it his mission to get the Big Duck back in Flanders said he will con-tinue his fight to secure the hamlet its "We have a historical duck in Flanders with a Riverhead ZIP code." Mr. la-

(all varieties) Mag.....

MOTOR TOBER

OPINI The Southampto

10/18/07

The Southampton Press

western entition
Established 1897

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Executive Editor
Joseph P. Shaw
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Andrew Botsford

EDITORIALS

Gold Stars and Dunce Caps

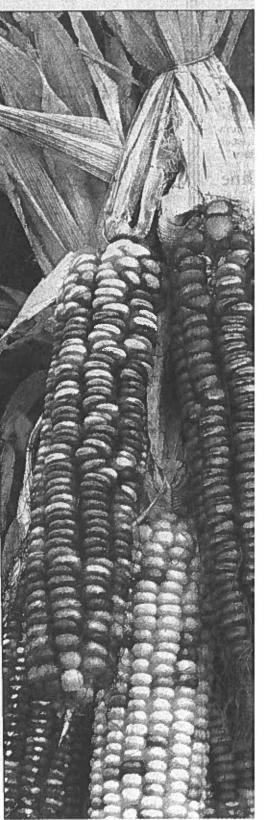
To both Southampton Hospital and Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead, for weathering a storm that has swamped other health care providers. Their situations are quite different: Peconic Bay is continuing with a forward-thinking expansion that is an investment in the future, while Southampton is still climbing out of the fiscal quicksand. But both have visionary leadership that prepares them well for the next phase, which will be working together for the good of all East End patients. For health care providers here, the present is a challenge, but the future looks ... well, it looks like there is a future, which might be all that local residents can hope for.

To the Southampton School District, for proving to its students that the grass isn't always greener. The delays in the project to install a new state-of-the-art artificial turf field have been blamed on the contractor, the LandTek Group, but the school district has to take the ultimate responsibility for failing to deliver, and for failing to develop a contingency plan in advance. Credit the kids for grinning and bearing the necessity of playing home games, including a homecoming football game, on a patchy practice field.

To Southampton Town and Suffolk County, for the forced migration of the Big Duck. When Supervisor Patrick Heaney first suggested the move a few years ago, it seemed like a pipe dream. But the move got done, and it was a welcome boost for Flanders, a community that can use it. Let's see what happens now: If the Duck's site is properly developed as a roadside attraction, it'll be gold stars all around. If not, paint a frown on the Duck.

1

To Southampton Town and Suffolk County officials, for the 11-day lag between the "cops and cones" and the expanded Long Island Rail Road service. Look, there have been plenty



About Davis Construction

Davis Construction Building Movers, based in Westhampton Beach, NY, is the East Coast's premier structural mover. Davis Construction is owned involved in each project. Guy moves, raises, shores and relocates over by Guy Davis, a fourth generation building mover, who is personally 100 structures every year, mainly on Long Island.

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East Hampton Town Hall, 2007 - Six simultaneously moved from Further historic houses, circa 1700's, were Lane two miles to town hall.

moved 3 historic Victorian buildings down a major roadway, and finished

a half day ahead of schedule.

Harvard Law School, 2007 - Guy



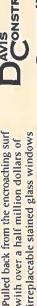
Maycroft Estate, 2005 - This historic gem was turned 260 degrees for a better view of the water.

house was flawlessly moved 100 Beechnut Farms, 2006 - This 210

feet in eight hours.

foot long and 22,000 square foot

- Guy Davis "Every job is unique and presents a new challenge... and I love a challenge."



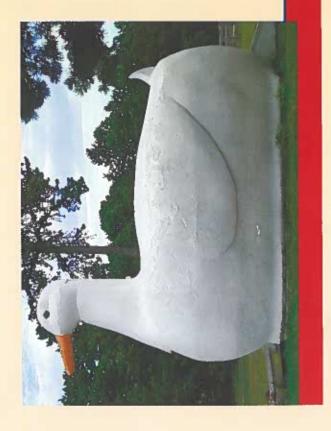
St. Andrew's Dune Church, 1995 -

too fragile to remove.

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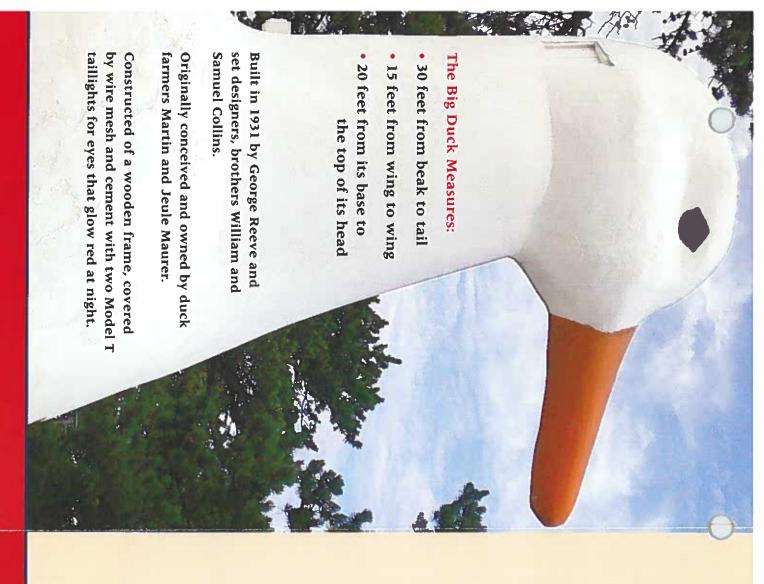
AVIS ONSTRUCTION

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Big Duck Move 2007

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Duck Move, 1987

Duck Hist

development, was donated to in the path of a new housing in Flanders. In 1987, the Duck, was relocated in 1936 to Route 24 Street in Riverhead, The Big Duck Originally located on West Main

Sears Bellows County Park. Suffolk County and moved to its current location at the entrance to

shaped like the product sold inside them. As with other architectural architecture. Architects use the term "duck" to describe buildings that are The Big Duck has become one of the most famous examples of roadside representational advertisement. "ducks," the Big Duck itself is signage - a colossal, three-dimensional,

Duck Move 2007

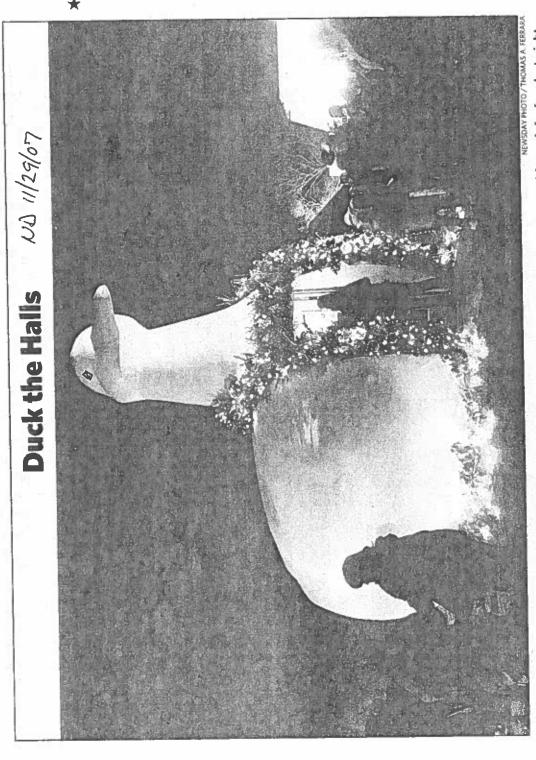
safer and faster than ever. Davis Construction will use self propelled four structural movers in the country with this equipment. will allow the Duck to "float" on oil which prevents cracking and twisting of the Duck while it travels over uneven ground. These advanced dollies remote controlled hydraulic dollies to help evenly distribute the weight the use of new technology, moving massive structures (and ducks) is A lot has changed since the last time the Duck was moved. Now with The Duck will move at walking speed. Davis Construction is one of only

helps reduce space in landfills. Structural moving is the oldest and largest form of recycling and it because he believes in preserving history for future generations. Guy Davis has donated the relocation services for the Big Duck move projects and welcomes the opportunity to work with other preservationists. Davis Construction has been involved in many large historic preservation

"Preservation is especially important on the East End of Long Island significant structures in good condition world of architecture and remains a The Big Duck has left its mark on the because there are so many historically



Guy Davis, Duck Move, 1987



Rockefeller Center has its tree, Long Island has its duck. While the tree was lit for the first time with much fanfare last night, so was the Big Duck, welcoming visitors at the annual holiday ceremony in its new Flanders home.

Big Duck's New Nest Remains Pile of Twigs

By Brian Bossetta

Conceptual plans for the Big Duck Park in Flanders—aimed at injecting new life into the community—were presented to members of the Southampton Town Board at its work session on Friday, February 29.

Tim Rumph of Araiys Design, a land-scaping and architectural firm in Southampton, who has been working under contract with the town for the last two years, unveiled his vision for the park, which he said will be the focal point of Flanders. Though no official time line or budget has been given for the project, Mr. Rumph said the park could be a five- to seven-year endeavor costing in the neighborhood of \$5 to \$7

The Big Duck was returned to its original location on Route 24 in Flanders last October as part of a community revitalization effort. The proposed park will encompass an estimated 37-acre tract of land along Route 24 purchased by the town in 2001.

Before moving forward with any clearing or construction work on the project, the Town Board must commission an archeological study because the site has been flagged by the state as one of "ar-cheological significance," according to Town Supervisor Linda Kabot.

"Just like we require the private sector to conform to the rules of the state regarding archeological and environ-mental sensitivity, we as a board have to comply with those same rules," Ms. Kabot said.

The study is mandated by the state to ensure that no sensitive artifacts, particularly Native American remains, are disturbed during the construction phase. Segmented archeological studies were completed prior to the ducks return, but only in the immediate area sur-rounding the landmark.

With its long migration ending last October—having spent the last 20 years nesting down the road in Hampton Bays—the Long Island landmark, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, now sits in a muddy field surrounded by dilapidated barns and structures that were part of the working duck farm of Martin Maurer who built the landmark duck in 1931.

The primary stated goal in Mr. Rumph's proposal is to "improve the site aesthetics along Route 24." Mr. Rumph's ideas include the renovation of those structures and the planting of community gardens and a wildflower patch. Plans

ter and possible venues for community events such as carnivals and concerts. According to Town Planning and Development Administrator Jefferson Murphree, the town is working to salvage

also call for rest rooms, a visitors' cen-

what it can from the existing buildings on the site, but said most are in disrepair and pose safety concerns and would likely have to be torn down. Mr. Mur-phree said that the any new structures would replicate the old ones.

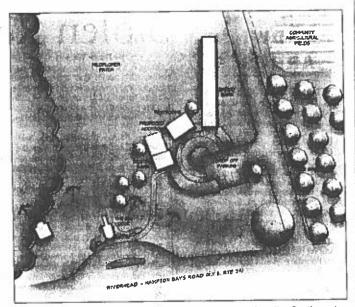
The ambitious design also envisions waterfront access to Reeves Bay in order to enhance recreational opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, and hiking. Mr. Rumph said he would also like to see a learning center as well as outdoor classrooms at the park to educate the public on the area's cultural significance and to provide awareness of its habitat, wildlife and environment.

According to Mr. Rumph, the presence of invasion species such as phragmites, plants which grow and take over indigenous flora, have a negative impact on the site's diversity of habitat and wild-

These seeds are either blown by the wind are dropped by passing birds," Mr. Rumph said. "These plants take over and destroy a lot of the vegetation that the local wildlife thrives on." He added that management of the area would be required to prevent these species from

returning.
"The Big Duck is not only a town landmark," Ms. Kabot said, "but a state and national treasure and this park is going to center on the themes of heritage, farming and education."

Ms. Kabot pointed out that there are multiple jurisdictional issues relating to the Big Duck and that much red tape has



Site plans for Big Duck Park in Flanders were presented at the Southampton Town Board work session on Friday.

to be waded through before the plans come to fruition. The town owns the property, but the duck itself is owned by Suffolk County, and the state's Department of Environmental Conservation holds jurisdiction over development on the land due to the wetlands and habitat present on the property.

Residents of the Flanders community present at the meeting said they were happy with the plans for the park but did not want to have to wait for the beautification of the area to begin.

Carl Iacone, a Flanders resident and president of the Bayview Pines Citizen Advisory Committee, said the park would be a "big boost" but didn't want to wait until the project's completion to see results.

"We need to spruce it up before summertime," said Carl lacone, a Flanders resident and president of the Bayview Pines Citizen Advisory Committee. "A lot of visitors will be passing by in the summer and we need to have it looking better."

FRIENDS: Big Duck Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

wants to spruce up the beloved landmark with landscaping and clear debris Avenue School in Riverside on Tuesday in time for the busy summer season.

Duck advocates, chief among them

them ves next time.

Planders resident Carl Jacone, have

she said. "And I want to be able to tell

"I hated to have to say no to the kids,

conditions at the duck park. Given its ular thoroughfare between Hampton Bays and Riverhead-Mr. lacone thinks

continuously complained about the visibility—situated on Route 24, a pop-

The goals of the not-for-profit group are to promote the iconic duck as a ders. Northampton and Riverside and to beautify the property and preserve the site of the former Long Island duck focal point for the communities of Flan-

"The better the image of the duck, the the groups chairman. Mr. Sheldon said the group will hold subsequent meetings the first Tuesday of every mouth at better the communities around it." said Northampton residem Chris Sheldon the school.

28. Southampton Town Board member Chris Nuzzi joined the group to plant hostas and marigolds around the big

it's vital to make some improvements In the meantime, on Saturday, April

before the summer.

about the local communities, "This is a Ms, Kabot said the landmark isn't just nown-wide asset," she said.

vs Design—a landscaping and architec-tural firm in Southampton—presented the Town Board with ambitious conceptual plans for the Big Duck Heritage

Back in February, Tim Rumph of Arai-

something Ms. Kabot said she'd like to an annual testival that might include a parade, carmwal, street fair, concerts group also recommended holding an annual Easter duck-egg hunt there. see happen. An egg hunt was suggested his year, but the grounds were unsafe, To advance their cause, the organization plans to raise awareness with and fireworks, Some members of the

could be completed within the next five

Ms. Kabot said the Town Board will like-

to seven years, according to Mr. Rumph.

Park. The project is estimated to cost between \$5 million and \$7 million and The town has already earmarked

y adopt the conceptual plan in lune.

5500,000 for Big Duck improvements. ncluding a renovation of the structure

thelf, but it must wait for a state man

pleted before beginning a major cleanup of the grounds, Ms. Kabot said. The law requires a study in areas where sensitive archeological findings, such a Native American remains, may be present.

Though the Big Duck is listed on the andmarks, the 37-acre property upon chased by Southampton Town in 2001 national and state registries of historic which it sits is not. The land was purthrough the Community Preservation Fund for \$1.65 million. The town re-

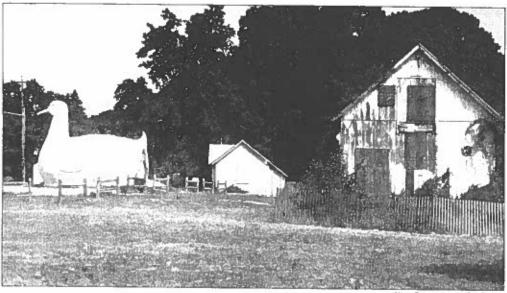
tion to have the property added to the historic registries. Ms. Kabot said that Studenroth is being paid \$4,500 from local historic preservation consultant work should be completed in June. Mr. the CPF Stewardship Account for his to complete the necessary documentaTo raise funds for their cause, the Friends of the Big Duck is holding a raffle Saturday, June 14, with prizes of \$500, 3300 and \$200 cash. Tickets are \$5 each

By Brian Bossetta

See FRIENDS, Page A8 held its inaugusur lārugusni sii bləd Friends of the Big Duck committee, which ounded by dilapidated buildings. The lconic Long Island landmark has been surring in a neglected, unkempt field sur-Since its migration from Hampton Bays to its former Flanders nest in October, the

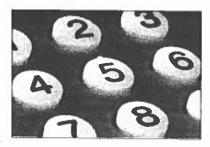
Big Duck's return to its original home in

are dedicated to making the most of the nity activists on Tuesday evening who Kabot met with a dozen or so commu-Southampton Town Supervisor Linda



The Big Duck Ranch, made up of 11 acres surrounding the Big Duck, has been nominated for inclusion on the state register of historic places, an honor already attained by the Duck itself.

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Ranch, Duck on list

By Tim Gannon

The Big Duck is already listed on both the state and national registers of historic places. Now, the Big Duck Ranch is expected to make the state register as well.

What's the Big Duck Ranch? It's the L3 acres surrounding the Big Duck at its new (and old) site on Flanders Road. The New York State Board of Historic Preservation recommended Big Duck Ranch and 32 other sites for inclusion in the registry last month. The state commissioner of parks, recreation and historic places is expected to formally approve the site's official listing soon. according to spokesman Dan Keefe.

The Big Duck was built in 1931 and originally was located on Main Street in Riverhead until it was moved in 1936 to the Flanders Road site where it now sits. In 1988, it headed east to a location in front of the now-closed Sears-Bellows stables, where it remained until last year, when it returned to its previous Flanders Road home.

That site, which was purchased by Southampton Town several years ago, consists of 37 acres that stretch all the way back to Reeves Bay, but only the 11.3 acres surrounding the Duck have been named to the historic register.

A nonprofit group called the Friends of the Big Duck has been formed to plan uses for the land, with ideas such as concerts, carnivals and other events being mentioned.

In addition to the Duck, three other structures — a duck brooding facility, a Victorian barn and a small stucco building — remain on the property from its days as a duck farm. The town has said it's trying to restore these buildings for use in establishing some sort of museum or educational facility related to the history of duck farming.

Residents say inclusion on the register is an important step in protecting those buildings.

"We are urging the town to use available funds to start repairs as soon as possible," said Chris Sheldon, newly elected president of Friends of the Big Duck. In December 2006, the Preservation League of New York State had awarded a matching grant of \$30,000 for their restoration, he said.

Mr. Keefe said inclusion the register also makes it easier to obtain federal rehabilitation tax credits or grants for restoration.

The town's application to get Big Duck Ranch on the historic places register was prepared by Zachary Studenroth, an architectural preservation consultant and director of the Sag Harbor Whaling Museum.

Mr. Keefe said inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places normally means inclusion on the national register as well. Mr. Studenroth said he's never seen the state reject one of the recommendations of the Board of Historic Preversation in 30 years. He said the Big Duck was added to the Historic Register when it was located at the Sears-Bellows site.





The buildings surrounding the Big Duck in Flanders were recently designated historic landmarks by New York State.

State Safeguards Nest Belonging to Big Duck

Three structures on the

Flanders property that

houses the Big Duck

are now protected.

By Brian Bossett<mark>a</mark>

The 13-acre nest in Flanders that surrounds the Big Duck has been added to the New York State Register of Historic Places.

Though the historic roadside structure was already on that list—as well as on the national register—the surrounding property had not been.

ing property had not been.

Now that the application to the state's register has been approved, the property will be added to the national register, according to Zachary Studenroth, a local historic preservation consultant hired by Southampton

consultant hired by Southampton Town to get the property added to the historic registers. Mr. Studenroth is also

the director of the Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum.

"Improving the Big Duck site has been a top priority," said Town Supervisor Linda Kabot, "and has been since it was returned to Elanders."

By designating the

13 acres as a historic place, the property gets an added layer of protection, according to Janice Artandi, media contact for Friends of the Big Duck, a not-for-profit group dedicated to preserving the Big Duck and the image it evokes of Long Island's duck farming heritage. Now, the three historic structures on the site that were all part of the original duck farm—a duck brooding facility, a Victorian barn and a small stucco building—are more likely to be preserved, according to Mr. Studenroth.

Chris Sheldon, president of the Friends of the Big Duck, is urging the town to begin improvements and pres-

ervation on the property as soon as possible.

Back in April, Town Councilman Chris Nuzzi joined Mr. Sheldon's group on a Saturday to plant hostas and marigolds to beautify the area surrounding the Big Duck. "The better the image of the duck," Mr. Sheldon said, "the better the image of the communities that surround it."

According to Ms. Kabot, the Town Board will soon be meeting to discuss how to best use the \$500,000 earmarked for the site's improvement. Already, the town has added a split-rail fence, garbage cans, a parking area and has painted over graffiti that had defaced

the three historic buildings. In October of last

In October of last year the iconic Big Duck was moved back to its original location from its prior spot down the road near Hampton Bays as part of a broader effort to revitalize the area.

But the town has a more ambitious vision for the Big Duck than an aesthetic makeover: It include plans for the entire 37 acres that run from the Big Duck's roost on Route 24 to Reeves Bay. Blueprints for Big Duck Heritage Park, estimated to cost between \$5 million and \$7 million, are being drafted by Tim Rumph, a landscape architect based in Southampton.

The 37 acres surrounding the Big Duck were purchased by the town in 2001 with \$1.65 million in Community Preservation Funds. Mr. Sheldon said his group's mission is to make the Big Duck the focal point for the Flanders community.

TABLED: Board Dela

FROM PAGE A1

tieri, who did not attend Friday's meeting, said he did not mind the additional delay. "The village, as a whole, is moving in the right direction," he said.

Village Trustee Peter Sartorius explained on Wednesday that the reason the decision was delayed was because Stephen Latham, an attorney representing Frances and Allen Adler of Quogue, who live next door to the Inn at Quogue, had asked the trustees to keep the public hearing open for 30 days to accept written comments.

A public hearing was initially called in June to discuss the proposed amendment to the village code, which would allow Mr. Lettieri to move forward with his plan to demolish the existing motel units and construct five single-family homes on the 2.4-acre property. In exchange, he has agreed to renovate and maintain the Weathervane, the historic Jessup family homestead located on the property.

the property.

Mr. Lettieri's plans seemed to change earlier this month after a federal court threw out a \$25 million lawsuit that he had filed last November against Quogue Village, alleging that the municipality had violated his civil rights and discriminated against him because of his Italian descent. In response to

the ruling, Mr. Lettieri a diately filed an applicat village to demolish the which he would be within do because the historic s not have landmark status

The developer's revised filed hours after the coulawsuit, seeks permissic 26,000-square-foot offione of his original plan at Quogue property. Micould move forward with code amendment is not scheduled to appear befor Planning Board on Satur to discuss the proposal.

According to the Quoga spector Edward Wolfers mit to demolish the buil granted to Mr. Lettier ib the month. "We are work Mr. Wolfersdorf said.

However, Mr. Lettieri s day that he intends to next Village Board meet for August 15, before deor not to demolish the W

The current plan on t third option being con developer. Mr. Lettieri's posal for the property, for the construction of ums, lacked support frecials and residents becawas considered too bi

"Did you (It co

CAN YOU SAY "BIG DUCK" IN TURKISH?

By Tricia Rayburn

Barbara "Babs" Bixby, the self-proclaimed landmarks for 14 years, can say "Big Duck" in "simple little duck lady" who's been greeting visitors to one of Long Island's most famous Chinese, German and even Turkish.

"Buyuk Ordek," she said with a shrug. "Who

might come as a surprise. But for Babs, it's just back in Flanders — this unsolicited international education in a fowl-shaped classroom For locals, those who have passed The Big Duck on Route 24 — first in Flanders, then at Sears Bellows Park in Hampton Bays, and now

where. Visitors from near and far make The all over," she said. "From China, the an ordinary day on the job. "People come from Philippines, India, Ireland, Germany — every-Big Duck their destination."

bilia." And soon enough, if all goes according to dozen people will still stop in for a taste of local Christmas ornament or other piece of "duck-aslower days, which usually occur only when gray skies and rain keep travelers at bay, a few history, and to perhaps pick up a t-shirt, mug, under The Big Duck's big yellow beak. On weekend day hundreds of people will pass According to Babs, on any summer

Department, the newly formed Friends of the the plan of the Suffolk County Parks Big Duck and other Big Duck devotees every-

Maurer as a 3-D advertisement for the Peking to the New York State Register of Historic Places. While The Big Duck structure, built in 1931 by Riverhead duck farmer Martin stered by the addition of the Big Duck Ranch That plan, which involves transforming The Big Duck into a major community focal point complete with concerts, carnivals and other family-friendly events, has recently been bolwhere, those numbers will multiply.

Dan's Papers 7/7/09 (continued on page 62)

Big Duck (continued from page 29)

ducks he sold, was already listed on the State and National Registers, the surrounding 13acre former duck farm site wasn't. Zachary Studenroth, director of the Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum, was hired as an historic preservation consultant by Southampton Town, and submitted an application to the State Office of Historic Preservation. The application was approved in June, and inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places will follow, meaning more state funding for the restoration, preservation and possible expansion of The Big Duck site.

Many residents find the development of crucial importance to the East End. Said Chris Sheldon, president of the Friends of The Big Duck, a year-old non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the landmark's image, location and structure, "The Big Duck is a beloved symbol of all of Long Island, but it is also the focal point of the heart of the northwest quarter of Southampton Township, represented by the hamlets of Flanders, Riverside and Northampton. It really helps the image of the local communities." The group operates by the belief that the better the image of The Big Duck, the better the communities will be around it. Added Sheldon, "Look at what Sag Harbor was a few years ago, and what it is today. The same thing is possible for Flanders."

The Big Duck already has a lot going for it more than other, perhaps slightly less quirky historic sites. It's spawned an entire category of architecture called "duck architecture," a



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term that was coined in 1968 by architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, and refers to any building that's shaped like whatever it sells. "If you're in Florida and you go to a store in the shape of an orange, that's duck architecture," said Sheldon. Other examples of duck architecture can be found across the country, in the form of oversized hot dogs, mice, cows and more. Such offbeat attractions are the stuff of great road trips and photo ops, which makes it especially impressive that, according to Sheldon, "The Big Duck is the grand-daddy of it all." Also, in 2004, The Big Duck featured prominently in PBS's "wacky travelogue," A Program About Unusual Buildings & Other Roadside Stuff. On the DVD version of this documentary, The Big Duck even snags the main cover shot. Not bad for a former poultry shop at the end of Long

For now, the first order of business for the site is to save its three other original buildings a brooding facility, hatchery and equipment barn - from collapse. And then, more beautification measures (including outdoor base lighting), and, eventually, a possible merger with the rest of the property that runs from the Big Duck Ranch to Reeves Bay. This would bring the site up to 37 acres, which could become Big Duck Heritage Park, a \$5-7 million project currently in the planning stages with Southampton landscape architect Tim Rumph.

Babs, for one, is quite excited about the recent and future development, and grateful to the many people who have worked to make it possible. "It's all thanks to the efforts of the public, the Department of Historic Services, the county, the town and everyone responsible for saving our little museum.

And who wouldn't want to fight for The Big Duck, which seems to speak to everyone wherever they're from? Said Sheldon, "Anybody who drives by The Big Duck smiles. It just brings out the kid in you."

The Friends of The Big Duck meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Phillips Avenue School in Riverside. For more information, contact Treasurer Fran Cobb at 631-727-







Aittelsdorf and Professor Rick Orr.

there will be more people to take care of a larger garden next year.

"We use it as a springboard to start talking about food in America," he said interaction between the curricand the garden, "It loops nicely back to the classes. In the environmental issues class that I co-teach, we talk for three weeks about the food industry, pesticides, aquaculture. When we go to the supermarket, we don't see the water, soil or pesticides.

On the late September evening that the Harvest Dinner was held, there was something else that was different about the campus, which has been little more than a ghost town since Long Island University closed its doors in 2005. There was actually a sense of student life, as bearded students on skateboards and serious students in business suits gathered at the entrances to the buildings, discussing science, the environment and ecology

There are 350 full-time students, up from 200 last year, and 150 of them live on campus. Unlike last year, when many of the students on campus had been wait-listed at Stony Brook's main campus and were waiting for admission there, this year, most of the new students applied directly to Stony Brook Southampton, looking for an education in sustainability. The college plans to enroll 2,000 students by its fifth year.

"We have more critical mass. In the two classes I co-teach, we have upward of 20 students," said Dr. Schoonen, who t last year, such classes ran with is half a dozen students. "With 20, that's much more entertaining.

"It's the first year it feels like we're a college again," said the college's media relations manager, Darren Johnson. They're very nice students, very conscientious, and they're smart students as well.'

One Year Later, **Duck Settling In**

For video and a

photo slideshow

visit 27east.com

of this event.

By Jessica DiNapoli A crowd of more than 200 people gathered at the Big Duck on Saturday to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the landmark's return to its home in Flanders, as well as to listen to Southampton Town's plans for the Big Duck Ranch, a proposed 38.5-acre park surrounding the structure that extends north to

Saturday's festivities-which featured speeches from local officials, live music, and a quacking contest-marked the first anniversary of the Big Duck's return to its former roost on Flanders Road, its home from 1937 until 1984.

Before the quacking contest and music from a local band called the Notations, Town Supervisor Linda Kabot explained that the Big Duck Ranch, 11 acres that was added to the New York State Register of Historic Places in July, will eventually become a combination of a heritage park, picnic area and rest stop.

Ms. Kabot estimated that the project would be completed in about five years. Beginning this fall, the town will begin work on restoring the three buildings on the property two barns and a stucco building that are all historic landmarks.

At a more detailed presentation of plans at Tuesday night's Friends of the Big Duck meeting, town officials could not estimate the cost for all of the restorations, as they are still seeking grant money from a preservation group and the New York State Depart-

ment of Transportation. A Victorian barn located southeast of the Big Duck will eventually house a small museum that details the history of the Big Duck and duck farming on Long Island, Ms.

Kabot explained. On Tuesday, Town Engineer George Mootoo said the barn had been used to store farm machinery and feed.

Mr. Mootoo said the brooder barn located on the property, a building that housed ducks, will be only partially restored, as the back half of the structure has collapsed. The building, located behind the Victorian barn, will stand as an example of brooder barns, Mr. Mootoo

The stucco building located west of the Big Duck, which formerly functioned as a retail center for ducks, will house the rest rooms and an information kiosk. A sketch of the plans for the Big Duck Ranch that were revealed on Saturday also show a kayak and canoe launch for Reeves Bay.

Mr. Mootoo said that the first step in rehabilitating the buildings is ensuring that they are secure. The Town Board will be putting out a bid for protecting



Town Engineer George Mootoo discusses the Big Duck. JESSICA DINAPOLI

and bracing the buildings during their next meeting on Tuesday, October 14.

Carl lacone, the former president of the Bayview Pines Civic and Taxpayers Association, told Mr. Mootoo and Allyn Jackson, the town's superintendent of parks and recreation, that he found a newspaper article stating that a

car struck the Big Duck in 1973 at the same location. He asked if there can be anything done to protect the landmark, such as the installation of steel bollards, to prevent another accident.

At the festivities on Saturday, town officials announced that Monday, October 6, has been declared "Big Duck Day" as it marks the one-year anniversary of the landmark being moved from Sears Bellows County Park in Hampton Bays to Flanders.

According to the resolution passed by the Town Board Friday afternoon, duck farmer Martin Maurer built the Big Duck in 1931 to house his duck farm busi-

"I used to come to the duck 50 years ago," said Harry Gurahian of Southampton during Saturday's homecoming celebration.

Mr. Gurahian noted that, when he lived in Mattituck 50 years ago, he came to the Big Duck for eggs and fresh duck.

I came today because I had nothing else to do, and I wanted to see the Big Duck," Mr. Gurahian said, noting that he sees the landmark only when he travels to Riverhead.

By Brian Bossetta

The Town of Southampton may take legal action against Cablevision if the company does not restore Public Access Channel 20 and Education and Government Channel 22 to its basic service.

Town Councilwoman Nancy Graboski, who has been leading the charge to get the channels restored, introduced a resolution at Friday's Town Board meeting to commence legal proceedings. However, the Town Board held off on taking such action after Town Councilwoman Anna Throne-Holst suggested giving the negotiations more time.

Ms. Graboski's resolution was tabled until the board's meeting on Tuesday, January 13.

On September 15, when the two chan-

nels were switched from analog to digital format, customers without a digital television set or a Cablevision converter box were no longer able to access the channels. A 2004 contract between the cable company and the town provides access to those channels to Cablevision's basic cable subscribers, Ms. Graboski said.

Since the September 15 switch, however, Cablevision has provided one free box to those customers allowing them to access the channels. The problem with that, in Ms. Graboski's view, is the one cable box provided is only good for one television set. In order to have access on all sets the customer must purchase a digital television, upgrade to a more expensive tier of cable service or pay \$6.50 a month for an additional Cablevision box.

"Clearly these options come with costs that have to be paid by the customers," Ms. Graboski said. "Legal action is necessary. Ten percent of these customers are seniors and lower-income residents who can't afford the extra box, and they rely on these channels for information, especially in the event of an emergency"

Town Supervisor Linda Kabot said the town's goals are clear: "Go back to the level of service prior to September 15 for the next three years or provide the additional boxes." The supervisor added that her office has received many complaints about the lack of access and that people are feeling disenfranchised. "The contract guaranteed a certain level of service."

Joan Gilmore, Cablevision's director of government affairs, said her company had not turned its back on the customers affected by the switch, which she estimated to be about 10 percent of all Cablevision subscribers. "We are offering a free box to those without digital sets so that they can access the channels," Ms. Gilmore said. "These boxes cost hundreds of dollars."

Ms. Gilmore explained that the free boxes were given "per household" not per television set.

"We are not insensitive to our customers," she said "But you are asking us to go one step further and address levels of consumption."

Ms. Gilmore said that Cablevision's competitors were already 100 percent digital and that converting entirely from analog to digital was necessary for the company's business health.

The federal government has set a February 17, 2009, deadline for all broadcast channels to switch to digital formatting.

e [] []

Duck Plans Waddling Forward

Plans to spruce up the Big Duck in Flanders are in the works with a goal of Memorial Day 2009 to complete the project's first phase, namely the installation of landscaping and other amenities to beautify the landmark.

Since the iconic duck was returned to its original home little more than a year ago, community residents have been advocating to clean up and beautify the area surrounding the landmark that fronts Flanders Road.

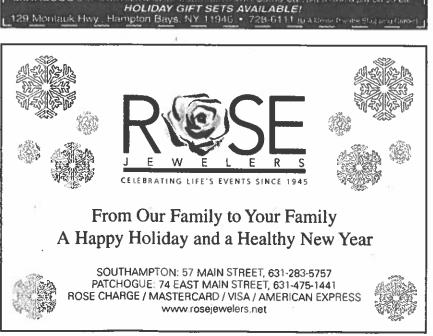
John Reddington of Araiys Design, the Southampton landscaping firm hired in March 2006 to enhance the appearance of the local landmark, told Town Board members at a work session last week that he wanted to maintain the Big Duck's historic image and that he envisioned an "old post-card" look.

To achieve that, Mr. Reddington said he would like to see native plants, perennials, wildflowers and evergreens planted at the site to provide year-round curb appeal. The first phase of the project also includes the installing of a split rail fence and gravel driveway that would allow motorists to turn off of Flanders Road and drive to a nearby parking area.

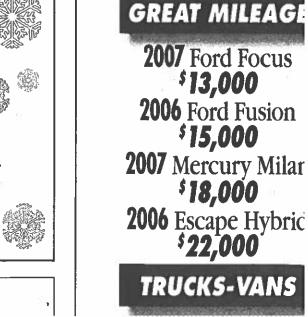
The idea is to create a community area for events, such as carnivals and concerts, and provide a place to educate the public on the area's cultural significance and the sensitivity of its environment, wildlife and habitat.

-BRIAN BOSSETTA

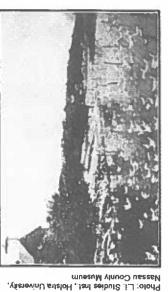




A Touch of Venice



Long Frand Duck Farms



How did the Peking duck get to Long Island? sailor traveled to China and returned with nine of the snowy-white, orange-beaked Peking ducks. These ducks thrived on Long Island's According to legend, in 1870, a Long Island splendid waterways when shelter was provided them for the cold winters.

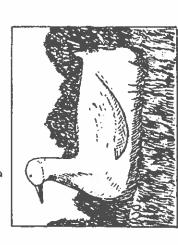
lent, its marketing potential soon became evident to Long Islanders. Duck farms, sometimes known as duck ranches, sprang up all over Suffolk County, producing 60% of the nation's ducks by 1969. Today that figure has dropped to As Peking duck meat was especially succuncreased production costs, and environmental below 15% due to escalating land values,

Long Island duckling can still be found as a menu offering at the finest restaurants around

See See

Ser. No. 318,066. Martin R. Maurer, Riverhead, N. Y. Filed Aug. 17, 1931

The Big Duck Ranch



sweatshirts, caps, magnets, key chains, mugs, note cards, holiday ornaments and children's The Big Duck Store fe. ares many duck-inspired souvenirs. Find Big Duck T-shirts, items as well as other DUCK-A-BILIA

raphy and artwork, calendars, postcards and on local history, Long Island seaside photogiams and jellies and other foodstuffs, books Also find many local products: Long Island much more!

Cold drinks and snacks, tool

\$ **BIG DUCK ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTING** 1st Wednesday after Thanksgiving

Visitors Bureau, The Big Duck will also serve as the official East End Visitors Center containing In cooperation with the L.I. Convention and information regarding L.I. travel and tourism.

Directions to The Big Duck

- From the L.I.E., exit 71 take Route 24 south Route 105 and continue 1 mile on Route 24 through the Riverhead traffic circle. Cross to The Big Duck on the left, right next to the Flanders Men's Club.
- Riverhead, and travel 5 miles on Route 24, to The Big Duck, on the right, next to the From Sunrise Highway, take exit 65N, Flanders Men's Club.



The Big Duck

Listed on the National Register of **Historic Places**

Suffolk County, New York Route 24, Flanders



Jince 1931

3000 Steve Levy

Suffolk County Executive John W. Pavacic

Suffolk County Commissioner

Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Division of Historic Services





HOTORY OF THE BIG DUCK

Maurer and his wife Jeule decided to construct a giant duck-shaped duck shop. They hoped to sell the Peking ducks they raised to passing motorists who would surely be drawn to the striking form of a "big duck" along Riverhead's West Main Street. The Maurers envisioned this plan while vacationing in California where they are known to have visited a roadside coffee shop shaped like a giant coffee pot.

Seeking local assistance, the Maurers hired carpenter George Reeve and two eccentric stage show set designers, brothers William and Samuel Collins. A live duck tied with a string to their porch served as a model for the Collins' design. Reeve studied the carcass of a cooked chicken in order to create a sturdy, bird-accurate frame-work for the building. Construction of The Big Duck had begun!

trademarked as The Big Duck Ranch. wing to folded wing, and 20 feet from its base to night. The Big Duck in its entirety measures 30 Big Duck's head for eyes that would glow red at the placement of two Model-T taillights in The street-line orange color. The finishing touch was for the beak, of course, which was given its Big Duck was painted a lovely bright white, save assistance of Smith and Yeager Builders. The pieced together, wire mesh was attached Maurer had his giant duck shop and business were commonly known as duck ranches, Martin the top of its head. As duck farms in the 1930's feet from beak to perky tail, 15 feet from folded Cement was applied to the wire mesh with the After The Big Duck's wooden frame had been

The Big Duck roosted at The Big Duck Ranch on West Main Street till 1936. The Maurers had sold quite a few ducks from their unique shop and decided to relocate, Big Duck and all, to Route 24 in Flanders. The Flanders

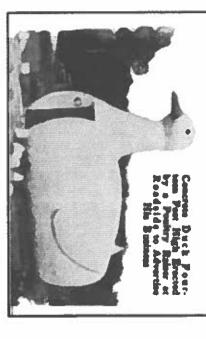
arms and have cherished ever since.

continues to grow, steadily. When the land where The Big Duck rested was slated for development in 1987, Big Duck fans from all over joined Suffolk County in an effort to preserve The Big Duck. The Big Duck's then current owners, Kia and Pouran Eshghi, generously donated The Big Duck to Suffolk County in December of 1987.

The Big Duck is now open to the public as a gift shop. Unusual Peking duck merchandise, lovingly referred to as duck-a-bilia, along with other Long Island specialties, now fills The Big Duck Store.

CONCRETE BIRD DRAWS ATTENTION TO DUCK FARM

Beside a road on Long Island, a huge concrete duck attracts the attention of passing motorists to a farm where these fowl are raised, and has been the means of increasing the business of the owner. The duck is fourteen feet high and contains a salesroom and office. The foundation is of concrete blocks. A framework of lath forms the outline of the bird.



The Big Duck, as it appeared in the Nov., 1932 issue of Popular Mechanics.

World Famors Duck Architecture

Long Island landmark, it has also lent its name to a specific style of roadside architecture. The architectural term, "duck," was coined by architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown in 1968. Duck buildings are highly sculptural forms which represent products or services available within, as opposed to the more common "decorated sheds" which are plain buildings whose functions are revealed by added signage.

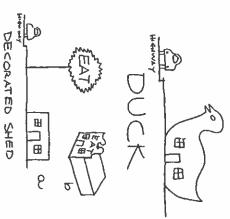


Illustration from Learning From Las Vegas, Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, 1972.

With Suffolk County's Big Duck, as with other architectural ducks, the building itself is the signage, a colossal, three-dimensional, representational advertisement. Designed to mesmerize passing motorists and entice them ultimately to a purchase, ducks are fantastical while retaining their purely practical intentions. The Big Duck has become the most famous example of roadside architecture.

Another well-known architect named James Wines has proposed the Duck Design Theory - D.D.T. - part of which states: "Form follows fantasy not function, for architecture that cannot offer fantasy fails man's need to dream."