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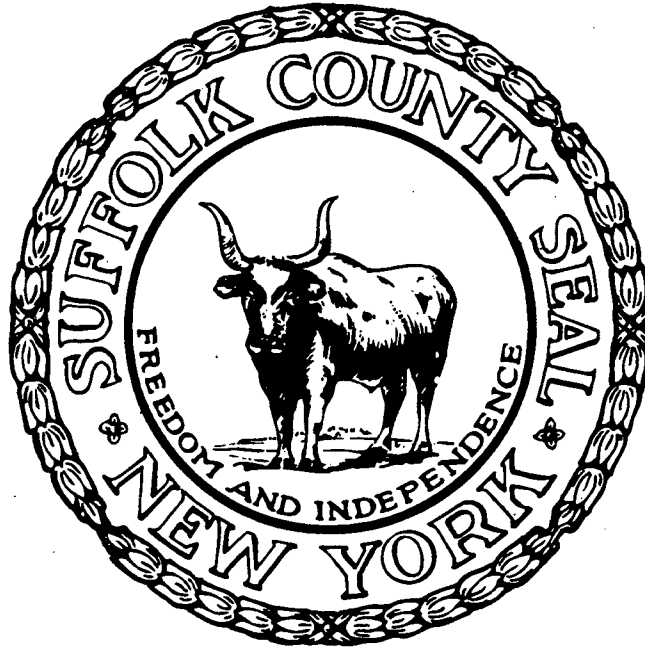


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY
NEW YORK

IMPORTANT SUFFOLK COUNTY INFORMATION SOURCES

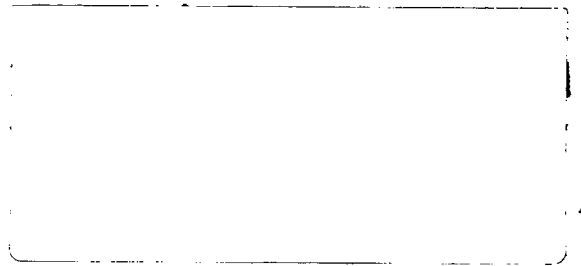
SOURCE	TELEPHONE # (516)
Aging, Office of	853-3610
Board of Elections	852-4500
Commissioner of Jurors	Riverhead 852-2300
.....	Hauppauge 853-4503
Courts: See Suffolk County Telephone book, blue pages, "Suffolk County Government." Small Claims Court - Closest District Court.	
Education: Eastern Suffolk Board of Coop. Services	289-2200
Western B.O.C.E.S.	549-4900
Local Schools: See Suffolk County telephone book, white pages under name of local school district.	
State University: See telephone book, blue pages, New York State Government;	
Suffolk Community College: See telephone book, blue pages, "County Government."	
Executive:	Hauppauge 853-4000
.....	Riverhead 852-1600
Emergency, Fire and Rescue	911
Health	Hauppauge 853-3036
Hospitals, Regional: Central Suffolk, Riverhead	548-6000
Brookhaven Memorial	654-7100
University Hospital, Stony Brook	689-8333
Legislature	Hauppauge 853-4070
.....	Riverhead 852-1700
For individual legislators, see telephone book, blue pages, "County Government, County Legislature."	
Parks	854-4949
Green Key Reservation System	244-PARK (7275)
(For golf and camping)	
Town Officials: See telephone book, blue pages, "Local Government" offices (Town and Village)	
Senior Citizen Hot Line	Western SC 853-3629
.....	Eastern 852-1420

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

The League of Women Voters is a national, non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any party or candidate, but does take positions and acts on governmental issues after thorough study. Both men and women are welcome as members.

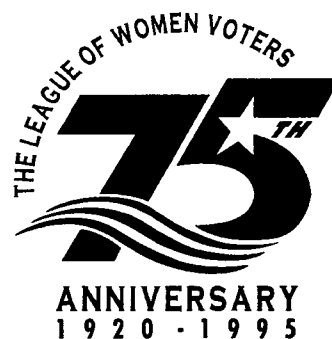
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

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THIS IS SUFFOLK COUNTY

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Historic photo from
The East Hampton Free Library

STEPHEN PHAROAH, LAST OF THE MONTAUKS

Stephen Pharoah (also known as Stephen Talkhouse), shown here in a photograph from 1867, Sag Harbor, was a native American descendant of Sachem (Chief) Wyandanch, whose historic treaty of 1639 with Lion Gardner cited "Paumanok, land where there is traveling by water," the name for Long Island used by pre-European natives.

I. PROFILE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Suffolk County comprises about 1000 square miles of the eastern two-thirds of Long Island. Long Island itself extends 120 miles into the Atlantic Ocean, east from New York City. The distance from the Nassau County border to Montauk Point is 86 miles. At Suffolk County's widest point the distance from Long Island Sound to the southern shore is 26 miles.

Long Island was formed during the Pleistocene Era when the earth warmed and the massive glaciers then covering the area melted, leaving glacial moraines of rock and soil deposits which shaped the island. Extending back 10,000 years and up to the 17th century, the island was inhabited by numerous small groups of Algonquins having a language and culture similar to native Americans who lived throughout the Middle Atlantic region and what is now New England. Historians estimate the native population to have been no more than 6,000. (In 1994 there were approximately 1,400,000 residents of Suffolk County.) The Algonquins fished and harvested shellfish at the shore and hunted the inland wilderness. From clam shells and whelk they chisled wampum, the currency of eastern natives and, in the 17th century, adopted as money by colonists.

The Dutchman, Adrian Block, the first explorer to touch land at Montauk Point in 1614, encountered native Americans. The first white resident was Lion Gardiner, who settled in 1639 on the island between the north and south forks. Gardiner's Island still bears his family name.

English colonists crossed Long Island Sound from Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies, founding Southold and Southampton (1640), East Hampton (1648), Shelter Island (1652), and Setauket, in Brookhaven (1655). Dutch settlers moved eastward from Manhattan Island. By the mid-1600s the Dutch had ceded control of eastern Long Island to the English.

In the 1670s, James, Duke of York, who owned Long Island, appointed Thomas Dongan to govern it. At a gathering of colonial representatives, the "Charter of Liberties and Privileges" was adopted (1 November 1683), establishing Suffolk County as a political entity and as one of the 12 original counties of the Province of New York, and laying the foundation

for the State's present political subdivisions and governmental structure. The County was occupied by the British for the seven years of the Revolutionary War, from 1776 to 25 November 1783.

From the first years of colonization, the heavily wooded forests provided wood which Long Islanders cut and shipped as cordwood and as board footage for local ship and home builders. As the land was cleared, the rich acreage was farmed. Fishing and shipbuilding were other early industries. Until the 1850s whaling was an important source of income.

Farming remains a staple of eastern Long Island commerce, although strawberries, cabbage, potatoes, pumpkins and sod acres are giving way to horse farms and vineyards. Its quaint historic villages, rocky north shore beaches and calm waters, the white sand and breakers off Fire Island, and the dependable winds and safe harbors for sailing make tourism a major Suffolk County industry. In the 1930s the County became the site of large-scale suppliers to the U.S. defense and aerospace industries. For example, Grumman Corporation played an important role in developing high-technology jet planes, such as the Navy F14 fighter, as well as the lunar module (LEM) which first landed men on the moon in 1969. After World War II, Brookhaven National Laboratory, a research institution administered by Associated Universities Inc. and funded by the Federal Government, was established on the site of Camp Upton in Yaphank. Its scientists develop peaceful uses of atomic energy. High technology centers make Suffolk County sixth in the nation in the production of radio and television communications equipment and aircraft manufacture.

Since World War II, Long Island has epitomized the phenomenon of growing suburbia. In 1955, mass-produced housing developments, along with new major institutions of learning, contributed to Suffolk County's population explosion. Foremost among the latter is the State University of New York at Stony Brook, which opened on a 1000-acre campus in 1962. Its Health Science Center and 18-story University Hospital became Long Island's tallest buildings in 1976. For some, the Island's bucolic

pleasures are offset by new problems accompanying population growth: disappearing farms replaced by housing developments, strip-zoning along once pastoral roads, dependence on the automobile, overcrowded roadways, possible effects of pollution of inland and coastal waters, and mounting waste-disposal needs.

Long Island's leading newspaper, *Newsday*, founded by Alicia Paterson in 1940 in Hempstead, started a Suffolk edition in 1944. The paper features investigative news coverage of local public officials and institutions, up-to-the-minute sports, and coverage of world and national affairs.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER

Until 1960, Suffolk County, consisting of the ten towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, East Hampton, Huntington, Islip, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Smithtown, Southampton, and Southold, was governed by a Board of Supervisors, with each town represented by its elected supervisor. This Board was responsible for County business, and each supervisor was accountable for the affairs of his individual town government. In 1954, the Board of Supervisors appointed a committee to study alternative forms of government for the rapidly growing County. After several attempts

TABLE 1.1

SUFFOLK COUNTY TIME-LINE

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1665 | "Hempstead Convention" combines Long Island and Staten Island into a shire, called Yorkshire, thus ending Connecticut's jurisdiction over the area. |
| 1683 | Suffolk County is organized as one of the 12 original counties in the Province of New York. |
| 1683 | Suffolk County towns send representatives to the first Provincial Assembly, which adopts the "Charter of Liberties and Privileges," laying the foundation for the State's present political subdivisions and governmental structure. |
| 1777 | Suffolk County representatives participate in founding New York State. |
| 1778 | Act of State Legislature provides for annual meeting of Supervisors of a county to apportion county court expenses among the towns. This is the origin of the Board of Supervisors. |
| 1829
to
1838 | State laws are passed giving specific powers to a Board of Supervisors, leading to development of the Board into a local government with legislative and administrative functions. |
| 1938 | State Constitution permits counties outside New York City to draft and adopt their own charters subject to the approval of voters. |
| 1954 | Board of Supervisors appoints committee to study alternative forms of government for Suffolk County. |
| 1958 | Suffolk County Charter is drafted and ratified by County voters. |
| 1959 | Suffolk County elects its first County Executive, H. Lee Dennison. |
| 1960 | Suffolk County Charter goes into effect and first County Executive takes office. |
| 1967 | Board of Supervisors establishes the Suffolk County Charter Revision Commission. |
| 1970 | Suffolk County legislative body is changed from 10-person Board of Supervisors to County Legislature with 18 representatives—one elected from each of the County's new Legislative Districts, with a County Executive elected at-large. |
| 1979 | Local Law enacted provides for voter initiative to change County Law through the ballot. To date, this provision of the Law has never been used. |

to write a charter in 1956 and 1957 proved unsatisfactory, a group of citizens formed the Suffolk County Citizens Charter Committee in the summer of 1957. The document they drafted became the basis for the charter approved by the voters of Suffolk County in 1958. Approval by the New York State Legislature followed, and the Charter went into effect on 1 January, 1960.

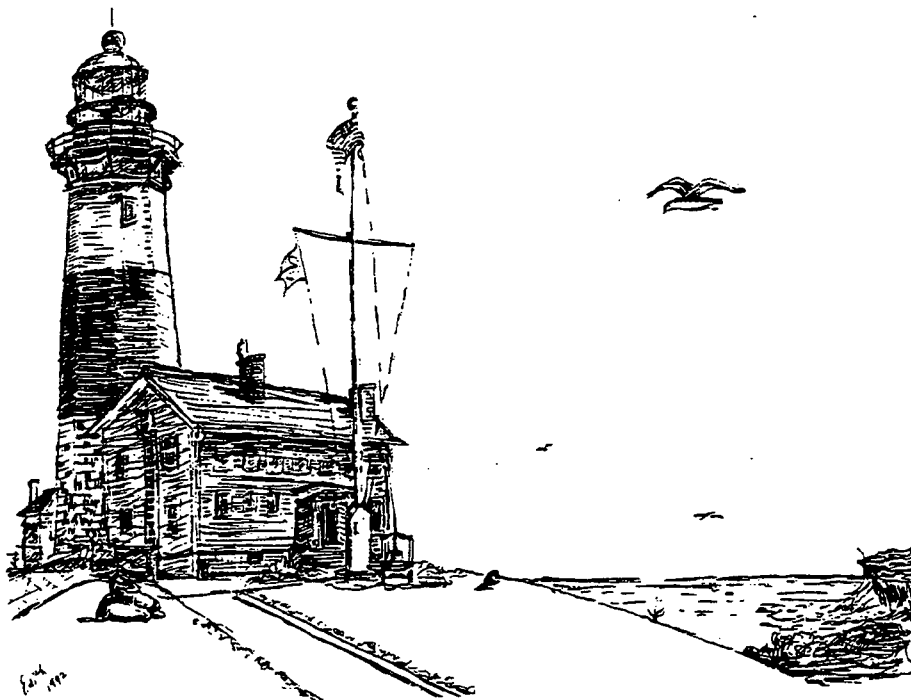
The 1960 Charter provided for a new administrative officer, the County Executive, while retaining the Board of Supervisors as the legislative body. County administration was centralized and streamlined, and a County police department was created.

In 1967, the Board of Supervisors enacted resolutions establishing the Suffolk County Charter Revision Commission, a group of private citizens appointed by the presiding officer of the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive. They were to update the charter so that it would meet more efficiently the needs of the rapidly expanding County. Coincidentally, in 1968 the U.S. Supreme Court mandated that the one-man, one-vote principle be applied to County government. Therefore, the Charter Revision Commission proposed the apportionment of the County into 18 districts of equal population, and the election of one representative from each of

the districts to constitute the County Legislature, replacing the Board of Supervisors. Other important revisions accepted by the voters in 1970 included delineated and separated functions of the County Legislature and County Executive and changes in the budget and capital programs. With voter approval of the Environmental Preservation Act in 1970, it became the County's basic policy to conserve and protect its natural resources, the quality of its environment, its natural scenic beauty and to encourage conservation of its agricultural lands, and acquire land and waters for the County nature preserves and Historic Trust. Amendments in 1976 and subsequent years have updated this act.

In 1972 voters approved an amendment that gave the County Planning Department the power to review and approve or deny changes, variances, special permits or subdivision plans on property within 500 feet of the shoreline.

In addition to those Amendments, every Local Law that is passed becomes part of the Charter. The *Laws of Suffolk County* include the Charter, Administrative Code, Local Laws, Acts, Resolutions, Rules and Regulations, and Codes. Copies of the updated Suffolk County Charter are placed in all public libraries in the County.



Sketch by Edith Gordon

MONTAUK LIGHT HOUSE, THE OLDEST IN SUFFOLK COUNTY (1791)



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

RICHARD (1798-1873) AND CHARLOTTE BLYDENBURGH

Richard and Charlotte were descendants of the founding Smith and Blydenburgh families of Smithtown. In 1798, family members constructed a dam at the intersection of Bushy Neck and the Nissequogue River. They built a farmhouse and mill, part of the major milling center on Long Island in the 19th century. Today, the mill and farmhouse complex are part of the Blydenburgh Park National Register Historic District (founded in 1968), which also offers public boating, camping, hiking, and riding trails.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

For most residents of Suffolk County, the branch of government that best addresses their problems is the town. Suffolk County is divided into ten towns. They vary greatly in size, from Brookhaven, whose 326 square miles exceed all of Nassau County, to Shelter Island with an area of 11.1 square miles. Population and development patterns are equally diverse. Brookhaven is home to over 400,000 residents while less than 2,300 live on Shelter Island. The five eastern towns, Riverhead, Southampton, Shelter Island, East Hampton and Southold, are sparsely developed and depend heavily on tourism and agriculture to sustain their rural way of life. The western towns, Babylon, Huntington, Islip, Smithtown and Brookhaven, are far more developed and include a mixture of housing, light industry and services. The commuter belt has extended so that commuters sometimes travel over 100 miles a day to jobs in New York City, Nassau and western Suffolk County.

TOWNS

Towns were the original governmental units on eastern Long Island and preceded the establishment of Suffolk County. They were largely colonized by New Englanders who purchased land

from the local Indians or patents from the British Crown. Today (see Table 2.1), the towns are governed by supervisors and town councils. Each town elects a supervisor who is its chief executive and presides over meetings and is a voting member of a town board. Towns also elect town board members, clerks, superintendents of highways and receivers of taxes. From 1960 to 1970, the County was governed by the Board of Supervisors, one supervisor from each town. Thus, each town had an equal vote on the Board, regardless of its population. In 1970, the Suffolk County Charter established an 18-member Legislature, consisting of representatives from legislative districts approximately equal in population size, thereby complying with the one-man, one-vote ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Each Town Board is responsible for preparing a budget for the town and for administering town finances. It enacts local laws and ordinances, appoints town officials and citizen boards, levies taxes for town services and administers all services to unincorporated areas. It also collects taxes for the County, school districts and other special districts within its boundaries. In addition, the five eastern towns elect town justices and assessors. East Hampton, Southampton and Southold elect trustees, as well.

TABLE 2.1
THE TOWNS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Name	Area (sq mi)	Year Founded	Population	
			1975*	1994**
Babylon	53	1872	217,000	203,199
Brookhaven	325	1655	317,500	415,471
East Hampton	64	1648	13,000	16,305
Huntington	94	1653	213,600	189,397
Islip	110	1710	312,000	291,959
Riverhead	78	1792	21,100	23,457
Shelter Island	11.5	1652	1,900	2,270
Smithtown	65	1668	122,500	113,187
Southampton	145	1640	41,200	46,068
Southold	69	1640	18,700	20,095

*From *This Is Suffolk County*, League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, New York, 1977

**From *Long Island Population Survey*, Long Island Lighting Company, 1994.

VILLAGES

The incorporated village is unique in that it is created at the request and with the approval of its own residents. Residents of an area as small as three square miles may initiate procedures for incorporation by procuring signatures on the proposition of at least one-third of the real property owners in the area. If the area has a population of more than 2,000, the signatures of at least one-half of the property owners are required. While incorporation may be initiated to provide services not provided by the town or County, the usual impetus is to ensure stricter zoning controls and achieve more local autonomy. After incorporation, contiguous areas may be added to the village.

The Village Law, enacted by the State Legislature, defines the structure and scope of village powers. Within this framework, villages remain self-contained units. A village may adopt and amend local laws relating to its legislative body and the transactions of its business.

There are 31 incorporated villages in Suffolk County (see Table 2.2) with populations as small as 28, in Dering Harbor (on Shelter Island), and as large as 25,909, in Lindenhurst (in Babylon Town). All villages have an elected mayor, four to six elected trustees, a clerk and a treasurer. They may also have a village engineer, superintendent of public works, one or more justices, an attorney, and citizen review boards.

The mayor prepares a budget submitted for approval by the trustees. The trustees set a tax rate which pays for village services, such as roadway maintenance, fire protection, garbage collection and recreation. The trustees are also empowered to collect such taxes separately from the town, and the village residents do not pay the town taxes for those services provided by the village. The trustees may borrow to provide village improvements and contract for services from other governmental units or from private sources.

For current information on local government refer to the listings in the blue pages of the New York Telephone Directory.

TABLE 2.2
INCORPORATED VILLAGES OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Name	Year		Population		Name	Year		Population	
	Founded	Town	1975*	1994**		Founded	Town	1975*	1994**
Amityville	1894	Babylon	10,722	9,313	North Haven	1931	Southampton	798	732
Asharokhen	1926	Huntington	613	790	Northport	1896	Huntington	8,031	7,515
Babylon	1893	Babylon	13,563	12,230	Ocean Beach	1921	Islip	93	133
Belle Terre	1931	Brookhaven	852	846	Old Field	1927	Brookhaven	921	758
Bellport	1908	Brookhaven	3,227	2,540	Patchogue	1893	Brookhaven	12,948	11,186
Brightwaters	1916	Islip	3,881	3,272	Poquott	1931	Brookhaven	468	818
Dering Harbor	1916	Shelter Island	22	28	Port Jefferson	1963	Brookhaven	5,925	7,529
East Hampton	1920	East Hampton	1,955	1,426	Quogue	1929	Southampton	939	905
Greenport	1838	Southold	2,518	2,066	Sag Harbor	1846	Southampton	1,758	2,114
Head of the Harbor	1928	Smithtown	1,046	1,367	Saltire	1917	Islip	35	38
Huntington Bay	1924	Huntington	1,866	1,496	Shoreham	1913	Brookhaven	164	537
Islandia	1985	Islip	-----	2,741	Southampton	1894	Southampton	5,101	3,967
Lake Grove	1968	Brookhaven	10,547	9,866	The Branch	1929	Smithtown	1,679	1,627
Lindenhurst	1923	Babylon	20,082	26,977	Westhampton Beach	1928	Southampton	2,142	1,522
Lloyd Harbor	1926	Huntington	3,605	3,356	Westhampton Dunes	1994	Southampton	-----	558
Nissequogue	1926	Smithtown	1,412	1,614					

* From *This Is Suffolk County*, League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, New York, 1977

**From *Population Survey 1994*, Long Island Lighting Company, 1994

3. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Eligibility and Term of Office. The County Executive is the chief administrative officer of County Government and is elected directly by the voters of Suffolk County. The term of office is four years, from and including the first day of January following election. The County Executive must (1) be a citizen of the United States; (2) be a resident of the County for at least one year prior to election; (3) reside in Suffolk County during the entire term of office; and (4) devote full time to the office.

The Governor of New York State may remove the County Executive from office in accordance with New York State Law. A vacancy in the office of the County Executive is filled by special election within 90 days after the vacancy occurs. The Chief Deputy County Executive becomes Acting County Executive, serving in the interim with full powers, should the office of the Executive become vacant.

Appointments. The County Executive has the power to appoint Deputy County Executives who assist the Executive with major responsibilities. Legislative approval is not required for Deputy appointments. With the Legislature's approval, the County Executive appoints the majority of the County's departmental directors, and appoints members of County boards and commissions.

Duties. The County Executive serves as budget officer of the County, and is responsible for the preparation and submission of an annual Operating Budget, a Community College Budget, and a three-year Capital Budget and Program.

The County Executive reports to the County Legislature annually, at the close of the fiscal year (January 1-December 31), on the financial and other affairs of the County. The County Executive may submit legislation to the County Legislature for review and approval and, as

Executive Officer, has the power to veto resolutions. The County Executive is entrusted with the charge to ensure that Federal and State laws applicable to the County, as well as local laws and resolutions of the County, are enforced.

The County Executive investigates and reports to the County Legislature any failure on the part of County officials to perform their duties and may make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the affairs of the County.

The County Executive has authority and control over the rules for the administration of the Suffolk County Salary Plan and labor contracts.

Local Laws and Resolutions. No County law or resolution may take effect until it has been submitted to the County Executive for approval; it is then considered to be adopted. Local laws must be filed with the Secretary of State. The County Executive may veto and return a local law to the County Legislature with a statement of reasons for not approving it. If not returned to the Legislature within 30 days, it becomes law. The County Legislature can override an Executive veto by a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Executive Department, headed by the County Executive and Deputies, has three main divisions: Budget and Management, Program Services, and Central Services.

Budget and Management Division. The County Charter requires the County Executive to manage the entire budget-making procedure. There must be two public hearings on the proposed County Operating Budget during August, prior to submission to the Legislature in September: (1) one hearing must be during the day and one at night; (2) one must be in the western portion of the County and one in the

eastern portion of the County; (3) one must be during the first 15 days, one during the last 15 days of the month of August.

The adopted expense budget for any fiscal year may not exceed the adopted and approved budget for the prior year by more than 4% or the amount of the increase in the GNP price deflator, whichever is greater, as measured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The County Executive may approve the County budget as amended by the County Legislature or may disapprove of one or more amendments to the budget made by the County Legislature.

Program Services Division. The County Executive administers the Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated (STOP-DWI), and is also responsible for administering segments of the New York State Safety Belt Law.

Under the County Executive, the County Community Development Office staff works with municipalities to develop block grant applications, projects, and housing assistance plans to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for funding.

In 1980, the County Executive consolidated the County's aging, youth, and handicapped services program into the Human Services Division.

The Office for the Aging is charged with administering Federal, State and County programs for the aging on the County level and acts as the advocate on behalf of the County's senior citizens. The Youth Bureau and Youth Board operate under a Comprehensive Planning Agreement with the New York State Division for Youth. The mission of the Youth Bureau is to protect the rights and welfare of the children and youth in Suffolk County and to ensure their physical, social and educational well-being. The mission of the Office of Handicapped Services is to work for the benefit of the physically challenged persons in Suffolk County, to develop and coordinate County services for disabled residents, and to provide special services not provided by other County departments.

The Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency was created by New York State Law. The Agency's mission is to counsel and assist members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.

The Women's Services Unit, created in 1991, provides a central focus for the needs of women in Suffolk County. The role of this unit is to provide services to women in need and to coordinate and facilitate programs and resources that are available in the County.



4. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

BACKGROUND

The Suffolk County Legislature was established in January 1970 in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's "one-man, one-vote" decision, replacing the 200-year-old Board of Supervisors. On the Board of Supervisors, the Supervisor of each of the County's ten towns had one vote. With the establishment of the Suffolk County Legislature, the County was divided into 18 Legislative Districts, having substantially equal populations. Each Legislative District elects one member to the Legislature. The Suffolk County Charter provides that, after each census, the boundaries of the Legislative Districts be redrawn, if necessary, to maintain a substantially equal distribution of population.

QUALIFICATIONS OF LEGISLATORS

To qualify as a legislator, one must (1) be a citizen of the United States, (2) be a resident of Suffolk County for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and (3) reside in the district represented at the time of the nomination and throughout the entire two-year term of office. The exception to these qualifications would come in a year when redistricting took place. A sitting legislator who is redistricted out of his or her district could run for reelection, but would have to establish a permanent residence in the new district prior to running in the next general election. Other qualifications are determined by the Legislature and are subject to judicial review. In the case of a vacancy, a special election will be held within 90 days to fill the vacancy. Mayors of villages, supervisors of towns and members of the legislative bodies of towns and villages are not eligible to serve as members of the Suffolk County Legislature.

POWERS

The Suffolk County Legislature has the power to (1) organize and alter County Government in accordance with the Suffolk

County Charter; (2) adopt local laws and regulations for the residents of Suffolk County; (3) make appropriations, levy taxes and incur debts; (4) investigate the functioning of government; and (5) fix their own salaries. The Legislature also approves the County Executive's major administrative appointments and has certain appointment powers.

PRESIDING OFFICER

The Presiding Officer presides over and acts as Chair of all meetings of the Legislature and is empowered to call special sessions of the Legislature. The Presiding Officer also assigns each resolution or local law to a Standing or Special Committee of the Legislature for its review. It is the Presiding Officer's exclusive responsibility to set up the various committees of the Legislature, to define each committee's responsibilities, and appoint each committee's members and chairperson. The number of committees, their responsibilities, and chairpersons may change yearly.

THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

The Clerk of the Legislature and the Clerk's staff are responsible for (1) the records of all legislative proceedings; (2) the routing to the proper departments of all resolutions passed by the Legislature; (3) keeping records of all local laws passed; and (4) maintaining records assigned to this department.

The Clerk of the Legislature, as well as the Chief Deputy Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, and the Counsel to the Legislature, are appointed by the Legislature and serve at its pleasure.

Before a local law may be introduced by any legislator, it must be presented to the Counsel to the Legislature, who must then, within 45 days, deliver to the Clerk of the Legislature a memorandum as to form, legal significance, and possible budgetary impact of the proposed local law.

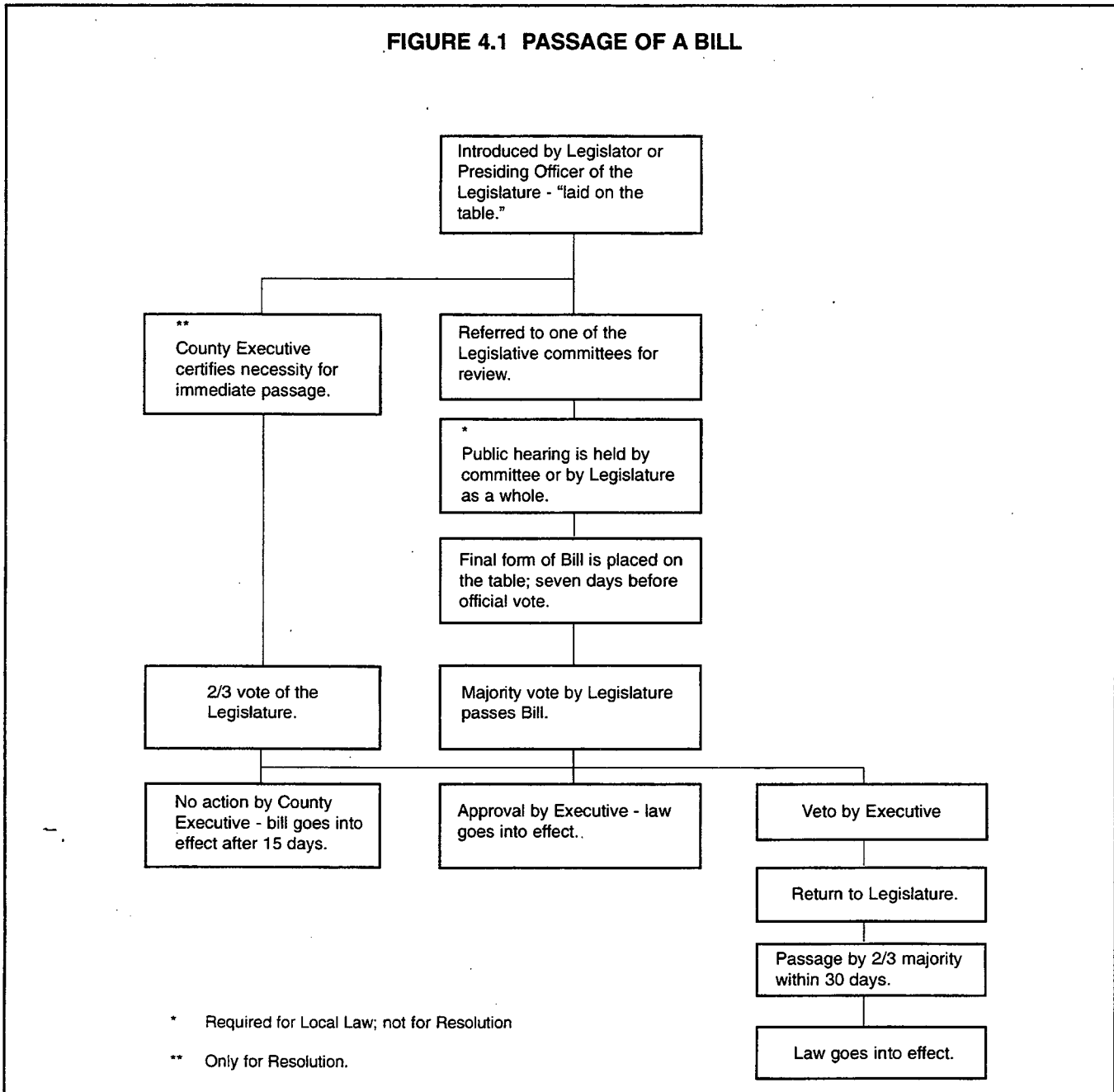
HOW THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE WORKS

Each year, on the first business day in January, the Suffolk County Legislature meets at its Organizational Meeting. It is at this meeting that the Legislature elects its Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer. The elections are by a majority vote of the entire membership. If a consensus on who should be elected Presiding Officer cannot be reached, the Legislature has 30 days in which to reach a decision. If, at that time, a Presiding Officer were not chosen, the Suffolk

County Clerk would appoint a legislator as Presiding Officer.

It is at the Organizational Meeting that the Legislature sets the calendar for the year, determining the number of public meetings to be held, as well as location and time of day. Meetings of the Legislature are held either in Hauppauge or Riverhead. The Presiding Officer of the Legislature may call meetings for special purposes with 48 hours notice. When meetings are called to order, the role is taken to determine if a quorum is present (a majority of the legislators constitutes a quorum).

FIGURE 4.1 PASSAGE OF A BILL



An agenda is available for each session and the business is conducted according to a set format. At 2:30 p.m. the agenda is suspended and the Legislature conducts formal public hearings on scheduled local laws. Prior to and following these formal hearings, the floor is opened to members of the public who wish to address the Legislature on any subject and who have filled out cards requesting to do so. Speakers are limited to five minutes each, and the Legislature does not return to the agenda until everyone has been heard.

All resolutions and local laws to be submitted to the Legislature must be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature by 1:00 p.m. at least three business days prior to the meetings at which such resolutions and local laws are to be laid on the table. Petitions and any other papers addressed to the Legislature for informational purposes only may be presented by the Presiding Officer, Clerk, or by a legislator. A member of the Legislature may introduce any memorializing resolution, sense-of-the-legislature resolution, or non-official Home Rule Message by submitting same to the Clerk of the Legislature no later than 1:00 p.m. at least three business days preceding the next regularly scheduled meeting. These proposed resolutions and local laws are made available to all legislators and to the County Executive. They are laid on the table, submitted for committee review, and the vote takes place at the next scheduled regular meeting of the Legislature.

RESOLUTIONS AND LOCAL LAWS

The passage of resolutions and local laws is by vote of a majority of the entire Legislature except for special circumstances where a two-thirds or three-quarters vote is required by law. A full roll call can be taken on any question when requested by a legislator, and must be taken on all resolutions authorizing the appropriation of money. When a Certificate of Necessity is presented to the Clerk, the rules of the Legislature and the Charter require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total Legislature for adoption.

When a piece of legislation is deemed extremely important by either the County Executive or a legislator, a Certificate of Necessity can be requested. For one to be granted, 12 legislators must approve, and the County Executive must also approve. A Certificate of Necessity means that the legislation in question can bypass the normal legislative committee process and be brought to a vote quickly.

HOME RULE

A Home Rule Message is a request by the County Legislature for specific legislation from the New York State Legislature concerning the property, affairs, or government of the County of Suffolk. It is initiated by either the State Assembly or State Senate, or by both. If a home-rule request is endorsed by the County Executive, only a majority vote of the Legislature is necessary. If it is not endorsed by the County Executive, at least two-thirds of the Suffolk County Legislature must vote in the affirmative.

MEMORIALIZING

Occasionally, the Legislature may wish to officially state its position on legislation or actions pending in another legislative or administrative body. This can be done by a memorializing resolution.

SENSE-OF-THE-LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION

This is a legislative device whereby the County may express itself on a particular issue over which it has no direct control or jurisdiction as long as it bears directly on the affairs of Suffolk County.

OTHER LEGISLATION

The Legislature may give immediate consideration to any resolution that has received the

approval of a majority of the membership of the primary committee to which it was assigned and that pertains to the adoption of (1) a local law with prior public hearing by the Legislature; (2) the annual capital program or capital expense; (3) the annual capital budget; or (4) a Home-Rule Message.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

In 1994 there were the following standing committees: (1) Energy and Environment; (2) Finance, Technology, and Management Services; (3) Health, Human Services and Family; (4) Legislative, Personnel and Government

Operations; (5) Parks, Recreation and Public Works; (6) Public Safety; (7) Veterans and Seniors; (8) Ways and Means; (9) Economic Development, Education and Mandate Relief. These committees may change yearly.

The Chair of each committee is appointed by the Presiding Officer. Each standing committee is generally composed of seven members. Although committee assignments are made by the Presiding Officer, a legislator may request assignment to a particular committee. Most standing committees meet at least once a month. Special committees are appointed by the Presiding Officer as deemed necessary, serving only for the time necessary to complete their work.

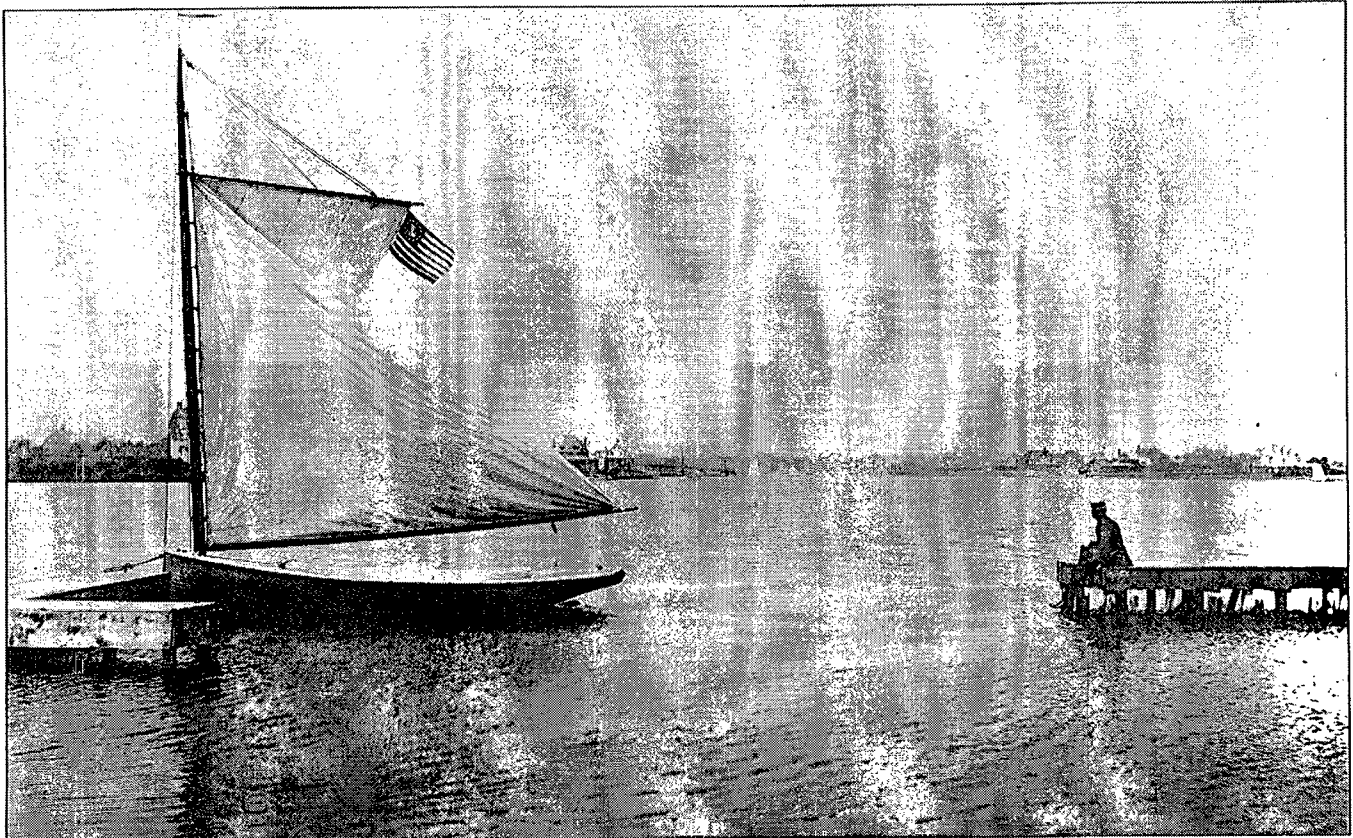


Photo by Hal Fullerton
Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead

SCENE ON LAKE AGAWAN, SOUTHAMPTON, ABOUT 1900

5. JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURTS

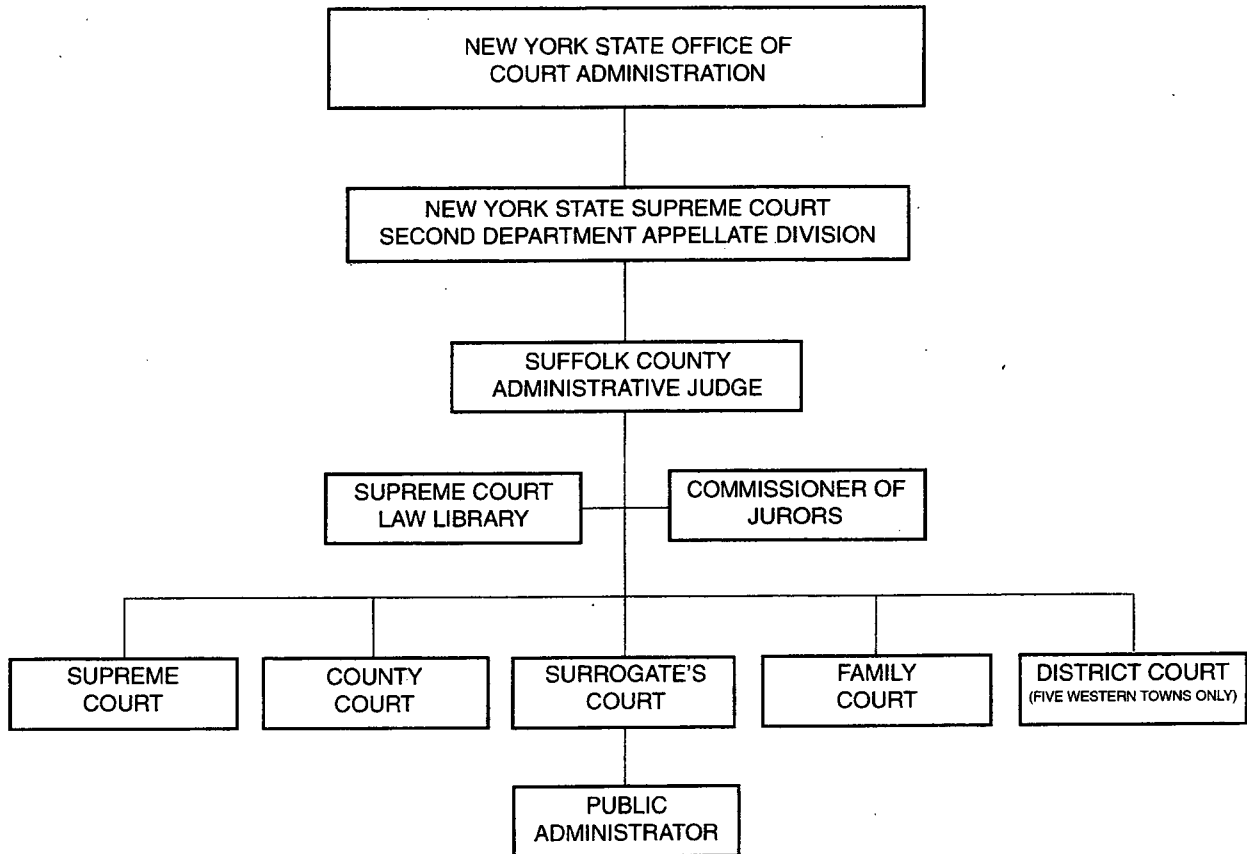
The Courts of Suffolk County are part of the unified court system under the authority of New York State's chief judicial office, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The courts were last reorganized in 1962, by constitutional amendment, and administrative authority was centralized by another amendment approved by the voters in 1977. At the same time, the State took over the costs of operating the court system, including the salaries of judicial and non-judicial personnel. Judicial salaries were raised by the

State Legislature in 1993, on a phased-in basis, fully effective in 1994. The responsibility for providing and maintaining court facilities remains with local governments, in this case Suffolk County.

The authority of a certain court to act in a particular case is its "jurisdiction." There are two types of jurisdiction: (1) original (or trial), which is the power to hear a case in the first instance; and (2) appellate, which is the power to hear appeals from the decisions of other courts. Some courts have either one or the other jurisdiction; other courts have both.

FIGURE 5.1 NEW YORK COURT SYSTEM

SUFFOLK COUNTY JUDICIAL BRANCH



The Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals is the highest New York State court and is located in Albany. It hears appeals from the Appellate Divisions only, except in cases where a constitutional question is involved. There is no further appeal from its decisions except to the United States Supreme Court, and only in cases involving a federal constitutional question. This court has a Chief Judge and six associate judges, appointed for 14-year terms by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the State Senate, from among persons found to be well qualified by the State Commission on Judicial Nomination. At least five judges must sit on any case and four must agree on a decision.

The Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court. New York State is divided into four Judicial Departments, in each of which is established an Appellate Division of the Supreme Court—the intermediate appellate court of the State. Suffolk County is part of the Second Judicial Department, the Appellate Division of which sits in Brooklyn. This court hears appeals from trial courts within the Department, by panels of four to five justices, and conducts proceedings to admit, suspend or disbar lawyers. The justices of the Appellate Divisions are designated by the Governor from among Supreme Court Justices for five-year terms.

The Supreme Court. New York State is divided into 12 Judicial Districts, Suffolk and Nassau Counties comprising the Tenth. The Supreme Court is the statewide trial court of the broadest original jurisdiction, both criminal and civil. In Suffolk it hears primarily civil cases where the monetary values exceed the jurisdiction of the lower courts, divorce, separation and annulment proceedings, and equity suits. These civil parts, which disposed of 30,734 cases in 1992, sit in three locations: in the courthouse at 235 Griffing Avenue in Riverhead, the Criminal Courts Building on Center Drive in Riverhead, and the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip, constructed in 1992. There are also five criminal parts (judges hearing major criminal cases), sitting in the Criminal Courts Building. Appeals of Supreme Court cases go to the Appellate Division.

The 22 Supreme Court Justices currently sitting in Suffolk are elected in the bi-county district for terms of 14 years. They must have been members of the bar for at least ten years. The elected justices are generally supplemented by a number of Acting Supreme Court Justices who are members of other courts. An Administrative Judge is appointed by the State Chief Administrator of the Courts to oversee operations in the County.

The County Court. The eleven judges of the County Court in Suffolk County preside over felony criminal cases. The Court also has civil jurisdiction in cases up to \$25,000, but because of the volume of criminal cases, exercises it infrequently. The Court meets in the newly expanded Criminal Courts Building in Riverhead. In 1992, the Court disposed of 3,400 criminal and 166 civil cases. Appeals go to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

County Court judges, who must have been members of the bar for five years, are elected by the voters of the County for ten-year terms. They are supervised by a Supervising Judge of the Superior Criminal Courts of Suffolk County, appointed by the State court administrator.

The Family Court. The Family Court is located in the new Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip, except for one part which sits in the former Supreme Court Annex on Griffing Avenue in Riverhead. The Family Court hears cases having to do with families and children. These include cases involving juvenile delinquency, minors in need of supervision, family assaults and offenses, abuse and neglect, paternity, custody, support, adoptions, and foster-care placements and review. The Court disposed of 36,660 cases in 1992; appeals go to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

There are ten judges of the Family Court in Suffolk County. They are elected by the voters of the County for ten-year terms and must have been members of the bar for ten years. One judge serves as Administrative Judge.

Family Court judges are assisted by five Hearing Examiners who handle support and

uncontested paternity cases. The Hearing Examiners, required to be members of the bar for five years, are appointed by the Chief Administrator of the Courts for three-year terms.

The County Attorney's Office represents the County in Family Court in most proceedings and acts as a prosecutor in appropriate cases.

The Surrogate's Court. The Surrogate's Court has jurisdiction over probate, accounting, administration and guardianship of estates of decedents and minors and also handles some adoption proceedings. There is one Suffolk County Surrogate who sits in Riverhead at 320 Center Drive. The Court took in 6,500 new proceedings in 1992. Appeals of Surrogate decisions go to the Appellate Division of Supreme Court.

The Surrogate is elected by the voters of the County for a ten-year term and must have been a member of the bar for ten years.

The District Court. The District Court was established in 1964 in the five western towns of Suffolk County—Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip and Smithtown. It replaced the Town Courts in these jurisdictions. State law provides that any town contiguous to the District Court system may, by a majority vote in a referendum initiated by a Town Board Resolution, become part of this system.

The First District Court in Central Islip handles trials of misdemeanor criminal cases, preliminary hearings in felony cases, and civil cases where the amount involved does not exceed \$15,000. There is also a Night Court in Central Islip which hears small claims cases and is an arraignment court for penal-law violations. The Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Districts each serve one of the separate towns in the system. They sit locally and are responsible for non-jury civil cases, including landlord-tenant cases, small claims and town ordinance violations. Traffic violations, formerly heard in District Court, now are handled by the Traffic Violations Bureau in the State Office Building on Veterans Memorial Highway in Hauppauge. Altogether,

the District Court in Suffolk disposed of 128,028 cases in 1992. Appeals of these cases go to the Appellate Term of Supreme Court which sits in Mineola.

There is a Supervising Judge of the District Court, elected by all the voters in the five western town. There are 23 District Court judges elected by the voters in the separate districts for six-year terms. They must have been members of the bar for five years.

Town and Village Courts. Twenty-nine justices sit in the local Justice Courts in the towns and villages of the five eastern towns—East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southold and Southampton—and in some incorporated villages of the five western towns. They may hear civil cases involving amounts up to \$3,000 and minor crimes and offenses. The justices also act as magistrates, holding preliminary hearings for those charged with more serious crimes. In the western towns, such hearings would generally be held in the District Court. Appeals from the town and village Justice Courts go to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court.

The towns and villages elect their part-time justices for four-year terms. Justices need not be lawyers, but non-lawyer justices are required to complete a training course before they may hear cases. Acting Justices are appointed by Village Boards for four-year terms to hold court when the elected justices are not available. The costs of the local courts are carried by the municipalities.

ARBITRATION PROGRAM

Suffolk County operates a mandatory Arbitration Program for cases involving damages claimed of \$6,000 or less. Cases (1,450 in 1992) are heard by attorneys. While their decisions can be taken to court de novo, this is infrequently done.

SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY

This library, located in the Criminal Courts

Building in Riverhead, has the most complete collection of law material in the County and is maintained exclusively as a reference library. It serves the courts, various County departments, town officials, the Legal Aid Society, attorneys, teachers and the public.

JURIES

Commissioner of Jurors. The Commissioner of Jurors, whose office is located at 225 Griffing Avenue in Riverhead, has the responsibility of providing qualified jurors for all the courts in Suffolk County. The Commissioner is appointed by the County Jury Board for a four-year term.

The Commissioner maintains three jury pools, one in Central Islip and two in Riverhead.

Petit Jury. A petit or trial jury usually consists of twelve members, but in some lower courts a six-member jury is used. Its function is to decide matters of fact presented during the actual trial of a case. A unanimous verdict of twelve jurors is necessary to convict a person of a crime, but in civil cases, agreement of only five-sixths of the jurors is required.

A juror must be citizen, at least 18 years of age and a resident of New York State and Suffolk County. Jury lists are compiled by the Office of Court Administration from names of eligible persons drawn from the voters' registry, State tax rolls, motor vehicle licensees and personal registrations. The present Suffolk County list contains about 300,000 names.

Certain categories of persons may claim exemptions from jury service; among these are lawyers, physicians, firemen, policemen and those responsible for the care of young children. Others who are disqualified to serve include convicted felons, persons who have been arrested for moral turpitude, and certain office holders. Prospective jurors are chosen at random from the computerized pool of lists mentioned above, and are sent questionnaires regarding their qualifications. Subsequently, summonses to serve are sent

by mail. Jurors check in by telephone prior to each day of service to see if they are needed. If not excused for personal or business reasons, jury service lasts for one week and jurors who have reported to court may not be recalled for four years (a two-year break if not required to report). The average term of service at the courthouse for trial jurors is 1.5 days.

After the first three days of service, jurors who are not paid salaries by their employers are remunerated at the rate of \$15 for each day they report to the courthouse. Jurors without employment receive the daily rate throughout their service. All who must come to court also receive \$0.15 per mile for travel expenses.

Grand Jury. There are generally three grand juries active in Suffolk County and occasionally one or more special grand juries. A grand jury consists of 23 members, 16 of whom must be present at all times to function, and 12 of whom must agree on a verdict. Each regular grand jury sits for one month, usually twice a week, but may be held over for a new term. The average term of service is 14 days. Grand jurors must fulfill the same requirements as other jurors in Suffolk County and are paid at the same daily rate.

The function of a grand jury is to determine whether a crime has been committed and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility that the defendant has committed the crime. New York State requires grand jury action on all felonies (crimes punishable by more than a year in prison) unless waived by a defendant. Lesser crimes are prosecuted on what is termed an information—i.e., on a sworn statement of a competent public officer.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION

The Department of Probation is funded by both the State and the County. The Department seeks to perform two essential services: (1) providing information about persons involved in pending cases to those making decisions, and (2) providing alternatives to incarceration for

those convicted of crimes. The Director of Probation is appointed by the County Executive and must be confirmed by the Suffolk County Legislature.

The main office of the Probation Department is in Yaphank, with other offices in Hauppauge, Bay Shore, Riverhead and Central Islip. Probation officers carry out investigative as well as supervisory tasks. The individual supervisory caseload varies between 25 in the Driving While Intoxicated Program to approximately 100 cases of regular probation supervision.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney (DA) is the chief prosecutor for Suffolk County, and is elected by the voters of the County for a four-year term. The main offices of the DA are in Riverhead, Hauppauge and Central Islip. Aided by approximately 136 full-time Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) the DA represents "The People" in prosecuting felony and misdemeanor criminal cases in the Supreme, County, District and Town and Village Courts.

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

The Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County, with administrative offices in Bay Shore, is a private organization which has been in existence since 1956 and was incorporated to provide legal services to the indigent in civil matters. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the same year (*Gideon vs Wainwright*) stated that all persons accused of felonies must be represented by counsel and a further expansion of this ruling requires counsel to represent all persons accused of crimes that

could lead to imprisonment. Since there was no office of public defender in Suffolk County, the Legal Aid Society was appointed as the representative of indigent defendants in the County. The Legal Aid Society can accept private funds, but in practice all of its funding comes from the County and the State.

The determination of "indigency," and therefore eligibility for Legal Aid Society services, is made according to guidelines based on weekly income and family size related to federal poverty threshold levels.

The criminal division of Legal Aid employs 50 full-time graduate attorneys in its Hauppauge and Riverhead offices. Turnover is minimal, so that most Legal Aid attorneys have at least five years of courtroom experience.

The Legal Aid Society also acts as Law Guardians for minors requiring representation in the Supreme and Family Courts. Nine Legal Aid attorneys, based in the Central Islip Courthouse, serve as Law Guardians, and eight more are active in other capacities in the Family Court.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

This 26-member council, appointed by the County Executive, is composed of heads of law-enforcement agencies and representatives of the County Legislature, town and village governments, and all levels of the unified court system. Its mission is to improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice through fostering coordination and cooperation among component groups. The Council meets quarterly; its members serve without compensation.



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

MAYOR WILLIAM GAYNOR AT "DEEPWELLS," ST. JAMES

Built in 1845 for Joel Smith, a descendant of Adam "Bull" Smith, founder of Smithtown, "Deepwells" was bought at the turn of the century, by William Gaynor who became Mayor of New York City in 1909. While on an ocean liner en route to Europe, he was shot by an anarchist. Confined thereafter to his home in poor health, he nevertheless carried out his mayoral duties from "Deepwells," his aides and political figures coming from New York City to meet with him.

After Mayor Gaynor's death in 1913, "Deepwells" stood empty until purchased by Winthrop Taylor in 1924. Until Taylor's death in 1976, "Deepwells" was a social center for the area. It was purchased by Suffolk County in 1988. Restoration, begun under Lance Mallamo, Director of Historic Services for Suffolk County, is nearing completion and "Deepwells" is expected to be open to the public for tours and special events.

6. FINANCING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

THE BUDGET

Preparing the Budget. The process of collecting tax monies and paying for government begins with preparing the annual budget. A budget is a plan of action for the coming year expressed in dollars and cents. New York State County Law and the County Charter require that the Suffolk County Executive submit a budget annually to the County Legislature, outlining appropriations (estimated/expenses) for the coming year and

indicating the expected sources of income. Two public hearings must be held by the County Legislature so that citizens may ask questions and give opinions after the budget is submitted. County Legislators may recommend changes in the budget. Once the Legislature votes to adopt the budget, the County Executive must either sign it or veto all or part of it. The County Legislature then has a set period of time in which to override the vetoes. The County Charter sets deadlines for submission and adoption of budgets (see Table 6.1).

TABLE 6.1

SUFFOLK COUNTY BUDGET DEADLINES (1993)

Important Dates for Capital Program Budget

- March 15 Start of public hearings by County Executive on Capital Proposals.
 - By April 15 Submission of proposed Capital Program by County Executive to Legislature.
 - By May 15 County Legislature holds at least one public hearing on proposed Capital Program.
 - By June 30 Legislature votes to adopt Capital Program with or without amendments.
- Capital Program presented to County Executive for approval. Legislature may restore any items vetoed by County Executive by means of a two-thirds vote within 10 days of receiving the vetoes.

Important Dates for Operating Budget

The Operating Budget contains the operating expenses for various departments within a given year

- On or before 3rd Fri. in Sept. County Executive submits proposed County Budget to the Legislature.
- By Oct. 31 County Legislature holds at least two public hearings on proposed budget.
- By Nov. 10 County Legislature votes to adopt budget with or without amendments. The County Budget is then submitted to County Executive for approval. County Legislature may restore any items vetoed by the County Executive by means of a two-thirds vote within 15 days of receiving vetoes.

Suffolk County Budget Procedures. The County Executive is the chief budget officer in Suffolk County. He appoints a Deputy County Executive for Finance, who oversees the preparation and implementation of all County budgets for the County Executive. County departments send their requests for the next year's budget to the Office of the County Executive. After the department submissions are analyzed, the Office of the County Executive prepares the County Executive's budget request, which is sent to the County Legislature where it is reviewed and analyzed by the Legislative Budget Review Office together with the Legislators. The Legislature then votes to adopt or modify the budget, which is then sent back to the County Executive for approval or disapproval.

The Suffolk County Budget consists of an "Operating" or expense budget and a "Capital" budget (see below). The fiscal year for the County is the same as the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. The budget for the Suffolk County Community College is approved prior to the start of the academic year (September 1-August 31), and is considered separately from the other two budgets.

When all three elements of the budget have been approved, the Legislature must levy the necessary real property taxes. The Suffolk County Tax Act states that taxes must be levied by December 1. Therefore, the Operating Budget should be adopted early enough in November so that the ten towns can get information needed to send out tax bills.

Capital Program and Capital Budget. The Capital Budget is the first budget enacted in the fiscal year. It contains the estimated dollar cost of capital projects for the given year. All items included in the Capital Budget must have been included in the Capital Program, a long-range plan that sets and estimates costs of capital projects. Although the Suffolk County Capital Program is a forecast of the planned capital expenses for the next three years, some capital projects will extend beyond that period. Therefore, each year a new three-year forecast is prepared. Acquisition of land, construction of facilities for long-term care, jails, sewage facilities

and improvement of highways are examples of the items included in a capital program.

Capital projects are traditionally limited to public improvements or purchases of major equipment requiring large outlays of capital.

The Capital Budget can be amended during the fiscal year by a resolution introduced by the County Executive and approved by two-thirds of the County Legislature in a roll-call vote. However, such amendments must coincide with (1) offsets from other projects or (2) at least 50% State or Federal funding. Once the Capital Budget is adopted, it can be changed, but the total budget amount cannot be increased unless there is a declared emergency. Technical changes require a three-fourths vote.

Operating Budget. The Operating Budget contains the operating expenses for all County departments and agencies for the fiscal year. These expenses include the costs for personnel, supplies, equipment, and maintenance and repair of equipment and buildings (see Table 6.2 for comparison of Operating Budgets for 1960, 1977 and 1993).

SOURCES OF REVENUE

The major problem facing budget-makers in Suffolk County, as elsewhere, is that costs rise much faster than revenues. The money to run the County Government (revenues) comes mainly from property taxes, sales taxes, special assessments, aid from the State and Federal Governments, miscellaneous revenues, fees, and various other sources.

Property Tax. The property or real-estate tax is based on assessments and is paid by everyone who owns land. Assessments on improved land, with buildings on it, are higher than on vacant land.

The County Executive's Office prepares the budget showing how much the County is projected to spend for all purposes. The County Executive then

TABLE 6.2
COMPARISON OF SUFFOLK COUNTY OPERATING BUDGETS
AND POPULATION SIZE FOR 1960, 1977 AND 1993

Fiscal Year	County Population	Increase Over Prior Period	Actual		Corrected for Inflation*	
			Operating Budget \$ millions	Increase Over Prior Period	Operating Budget \$ millions	Increase Over Prior Period
1960	667,000	---	35	---	35	---
1977	1,316,000	97%	578	1551%	272	667%
1993	1,400,000	6%	1550	160%	295	8%

*1960 is used as the base year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor's Consumer Price Index for the New York Metropolitan Region for the years 1960, 1977, and 1993 was used to calculate inflation factors of 1.00, 2.13, and 5.09, respectively.

The huge budget increase between 1960 and 1977 occurred during the period that Suffolk County went from a predominantly rural to a suburban area, especially in the five western towns. The services and infrastructure necessary to handle a population that almost doubled did not exist and had to be put in place. To do this generally costs more than maintaining a comparable system already in place. Highways had to be built and maintained, police personnel and other services had to be increased and upgraded to handle both increased population size County-wide and greater population density in particular areas; and the cost of many social and health services had by now been shifted from Federal and State governments to local governments, usually counties.

In contrast, during the 16-year period from 1977 to 1993, the budget increase of 8%, adjusted for inflation, is consistent with the population increase of 6%.

estimates the amount of State and Federal aid that will be available and the amount from sales tax and all other revenues. The balance is made up from property taxes.

Constitutional Tax Limit. The New York State Constitution sets a limit on the amount to be raised by the property tax for County purposes. This tax limit is 1.5% of the full value of taxable real estate, averaged over the last five years. For villages the limit is 2%. Towns have no limit and neither do the school districts in Suffolk County.

Sales Tax. The tax margin is the difference between the tax limit and the amount of property tax raised. In 1970 this tax margin became so small that the County Legislature decided for the first time to levy a sales tax. As of 1994, the Sales

Tax is the largest revenue source for the County's General Fund, comprising 43% of all general fund revenues.

The State of New York levies a State-wide sales tax of 4% and permits local governments to levy additional sales taxes of up to 4%. Additional sales taxes above 4% may be authorized by the New York State Legislature for specific purposes, such as sewer construction or for water quality protection programs. See Table 6.3 for a breakdown of Suffolk County's 8.5% sales tax as of 1995.

State and Federal Aid. About 40 years ago, County Government was financed almost entirely by property taxes, Federal and State mandates were minimal, and usually 50% or more of the

cost of such mandates was covered by State or Federal monies. Over the past decades, mandates to provide numerous services, such as the enforcement of health and safety codes, and the providing of health and social services, have shifted from the Federal and State governments to local governments. While the responsibilities have increased, the State and Federal share of the cost of meeting these responsibilities has decreased, leaving local governments to raise taxes to cover the cost of their increased responsibilities. Unfortunately, the revenue from property taxes has not kept pace with the rising costs of State and Federally mandated programs. In looking for other sources of revenue to fill the gap between taxes and the cost of government, the County has found it necessary to increase revenues, the most notable being the sales tax.

Other Revenues. County revenues from other than tax sources come from Off-Track Betting,

County Clerk fees, motor vehicle fees, charges for various admissions, repayments for social services rendered, and monies from licenses, permits, and interest on money deposited in banks.

Special Districts. Special Districts, sometimes called "improvement districts" or "special benefit districts," are formed when part of the County requires a service not otherwise provided. A special district may be established by a vote of local taxpayers and is administered by the County and financed by a special tax on the local property owners.

The Debt Limit. The New York State Constitution sets a limit on the amount of indebtedness that counties may incur. This debt is 7% of the full value of taxable property, averaged over the last five years.

TABLE 6.3
BREAKDOWN OF SUFFOLK COUNTY'S 8.5% SALES TAX (1995)

Government Level	Purpose	Current Tax (percentage)	Date Tax Expires
New York State	General Fund	4.00	no date
	Metropolitan Transportation Authority	0.25	no date
Suffolk County	General Fund	3.875	12/31/95
	Water Quality Reserve Fund	0.25	12/1/2000
	Police District Fund	0.125	12/31/95

Information from Suffolk County Legislature's Budget Review Office.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the process of determining the value of real property for tax purposes. Since Suffolk County does not have a board of assessors, all assessment is done by town and village assessors. These officials can be either elected or appointed. Assessors evaluate all property in their respective areas and determine the assessed value. Villages may arrange for the town assessors to evaluate properties for them.

Assessors are required to receive training approved by the State. Further on-going training in the form of seminars is provided by the State and the County Real Property Tax Service Agency (RPTSA). All Assistant Assessors or field personnel must meet minimum Civil Service requirements. In the western towns and Southamptton, the town assessors are appointed for six-year terms; in the remaining four eastern towns they are elected for four-year terms.

Individual taxpayers may examine the assessment rolls at their town assessment offices. Taxpayers with assessment grievances may file complaints with their Town Board of Assessment Review. No elected official or assessor may sit on this Board.

TAX RATE AND EQUALIZATION RATE

The budget sets the tax levy—that is, the amount to be raised by property taxes. To calculate the tax rate, the amount of the tax levy is divided by the total value of all taxable property.

Each town in Suffolk County sets its own property tax rate. Assessors in the different towns evaluate property quite differently. The State Constitution requires annual assessment of real estate at full market value. In actual practice, assessors have evaluated real property far below its market value (only Islip uses real market values as of its last assessment, 1979-1980).

Preventing inequalities of assessment figures between the different towns is the job of the State Board of Equalization and Assessment. By comparing market values with the assessed values of

sample properties, the Board can calculate an equalization rate for each assessment area. The equalization rate is a percentage of true property value (estimated fair market value). For example, an equalization rate of 50 means that the assessed value is 50% or one-half of the market value.

TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY

Under State law, property owned by a government or by certain non-profit organizations, such as hospitals, religious groups and educational institutions, is not subject to property taxes. Property owned by veterans and by some elderly people is exempt from a portion of the property tax. The amount of tax-exempt property in Suffolk County is considerable and has a commensurate impact on taxation for those who do not qualify for exemptions.

REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY (RPTSA)

The work of the town assessors is supplemented by the RPTSA, an agency mandated by a 1971 State law. The RPTSA serves to supervise the County Tax Map, provide advisory appraisal service to assessors, assist in the training of local assessment officials, and advise on procedures in preparing and maintaining tax roles. The Director of the RPTSA is appointed to the post by the County Executive for a term of six years.

The Suffolk County Tax Map indexes and lists property within the County. The map was completed in June 1975 at a cost of over \$3 million. The index to the map is intended to provide a complete history of each parcel of land, including a current record of changes. The index records about 45,000 changes made each year to the County's total of approximately 600,000 parcels of land. Unfortunately, the County has not been able to keep this map up to date. Specifications for the Tax Map are set by the State Board of Equalization and Assessment, but the RPTSA is responsible for maintaining the maps.

The total full equalized value of all property in Suffolk County as of 1993 was \$101,548,582,833.

TAX PROCEDURES

The home-owner's tax bill lists the assessed value of the property and any exemptions for veterans or the aged. It shows charges for school district, County of Suffolk, "town general—town-wide," "highway—town-wide," "town general—outside incorporated villages," and "highway—outside incorporated villages." Depending on where the taxpayer lives, the bill may also include charges for any or all of such special districts as library districts, refuse/recycling collection, fire district, lighting district, and water and sewer districts.

The portion of the school budget that is paid for by the school tax varies from district to district. The County tax supports the County Government and the courts. The town general tax is split into "town-wide" and "outside incorporated villages," as is the highway tax. The "town-wide" tax supports most town functions and is paid by all taxpayers, those living in incorporated villages as well as those in unincorporated areas. The town tax and highway tax "outside incorporated villages" are paid by taxpayers living outside incorporated villages for town functions or highways that do not benefit taxpayers in incorporated villages. Residents of incorporated villages pay a separate tax for village services and village streets.

Penalties. The first half of the town tax bill is payable to the Town Receiver of Taxes without penalty until January 10; the second half is payable May 31. The interest owed for a late payment increases 1% on the eleventh of each month, starting on January 11, until it reaches 5% on May 11. After May 31, all bills plus penalties must be paid to the County Treasurer in Riverhead, and the interest charges continue to accrue at 1% per month.

If taxes on a property are still unpaid prior to the County Treasurer's annual tax lien sale on or about December 12, a tax lien is placed on the property. A residential property owner is given three years in which to redeem the property by paying the delinquent taxes plus interest penalties and costs. Non-residential property owners are given only one year to redeem their proper-

ties. If the property is not redeemed within this time the County takes a tax deed on it. The original owner is given an additional six months to redeem the property. Failing this, the property is sold at a public auction; two such auctions are held every year.

After May 31, a Town Receiver of Taxes forwards all tax monies to the County Treasurer for County purposes. The towns and school districts begin to receive their tax revenue in January. Only after the school districts, the towns and special districts have received their monies does the County receive its share of the revenue. All property tax delinquencies are borne by the County.

THE COMPTROLLER

The Comptroller is head of the Department of Audit and Control and as such Suffolk County's chief fiscal officer and is elected from the County, at-large, for a four-year term.

The Department of Audit and Control is responsible for the examination, audit and verification of all the County's books and records. The Comptroller keeps accounts for all County appropriations and authorizes checks drawn by the County Treasurer. The Department is divided into five divisions: Administration, Auditing, Appropriations, Payroll, and Accounting.

The State also audits the County's accounts and The Federal Government audits funds it provides the County.

THE TREASURER

The Suffolk County Treasurer, who heads the Department of Finance and Taxation, is elected from the County at-large and serves a four-year term as cashier and tax collector for the County. A New York State manual dictates the procedures to be used in this office.

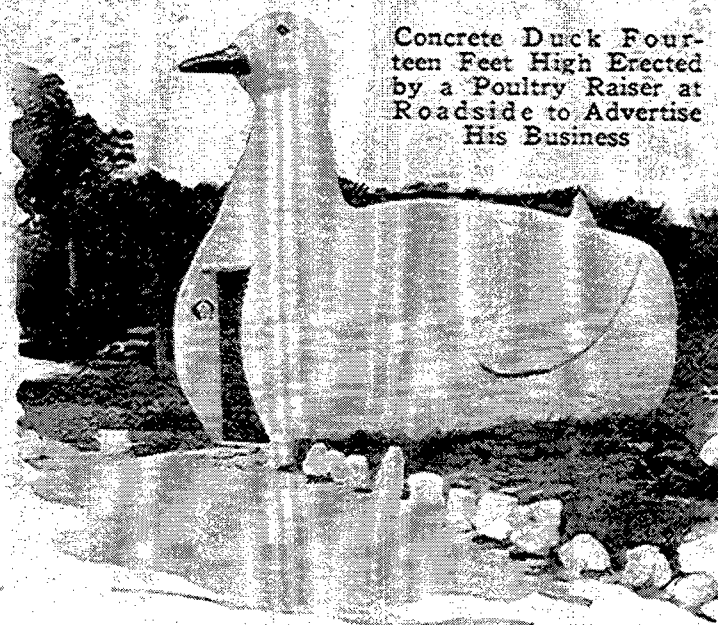
County funds are placed in banks designated by the County Legislature each year. These funds are secured by U.S. Treasury bonds.

When authorized to do so by the County Comptroller, the County Treasurer issues all County checks, public assistance checks being issued from Hauppauge; all other checks are issued from Riverhead. The Treasurer's depart-

ment maintains bookkeeping accounts for all the County's financial affairs. Yearly financial reports to the Legislature and to the State of New York are made from these records.

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.



Concrete Duck Fourteen Feet High Erected by a Poultry Raiser at Roadside to Advertise His Business

Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

HISTORIC POSTCARD (1931)

The Big Duck was recently moved to its current resting place at the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park on Route 24 in Flanders. The Big Duck is now open to the public as a museum shop featuring unusual Peking Duck merchandise, referred to as "duck-a-bilia," along with other Long Island specialties.



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY HOME, BAYPORT

7. MANAGING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Division of Personnel and Labor Relations. Part of the Office of the County Executive, this Division is responsible for the negotiation of union contracts, seeks to solve workers' grievances, and performs arbitration where needed. Through its Affirmative Action Program, the Division also carries on a continuing study of the employment situation as it affects minorities and women.

Department of Civil Service. This Department operates under Article VI of the Suffolk County Charter. It is responsible to the New York State Civil Service Commission for the local administration of the Civil Service System and for the enforcement of the State's Civil Service Law.

The Department maintains a classification and salary plan for all Civil Service positions under its jurisdiction. It also prepares and conducts examinations, maintains official records for all personnel transactions, and certifies payrolls for all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Department. Other responsibilities include administration of unemployment insurance, maintaining Affirmative Action statistics for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and training and tuition reimbursement programs. In addition, the Department acts as the civil service department for towns and villages, as well as for school, library, fire, water and other special districts.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The responsibilities of the Department of Labor, created under Local Law No. 3-1963, are (1) to compile, interpret and distribute statistical information about the labor market and economic conditions in Suffolk County; (2) to prevent and resolve labor disputes in the County; and (3) to promote and administer apprenticeship training and other manpower service programs to

County residents and employers.

The Commissioner of Labor is appointed by the County Executive, subject to the approval of the Legislature. The Department consists of two divisions, General Administration and Manpower Operations.

Division of General Administration. This Division (1) provides labor mediation services to the private sector through a labor mediator; and (2) maintains good labor relations in the public sector through the Suffolk County Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). PERB establishes rules of procedure to guarantee the rights of public employees to organize for representation and collective negotiations.

Division of Manpower Operations. The administration of programs to assist residents who are unemployed or reentering the job market is the responsibility of this Division. Such assistance programs change as the economic situation of the County changes. However, these programs generally fall into two major categories, (1) those related to Public Assistance and (2) those related to Manpower Programs funded by Federal and State funds.

In respect to public-assistance programs, it should be noted that the Federal Family Support Act of 1988 required that all programs related to public assistance be merged into the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program. The County Department of Labor works closely with the Department of Social Services and other County and State agencies in coordinating and administering these programs. The many previous programs and services merged into JOBS include the Comprehensive Employment Program, the Home Relief Job Search Program, and the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

Manpower Programs funded by the Federal and State Governments require that the County's Department of Labor work "hand in hand" with the business community to provide appropriate employment and job-training opportunities for

both youth and adults. Among the Manpower Programs administered by the Manpower Operations Division of the County Department of Labor is the U.S. Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The Division works in cooperation with the Private Industry Council (PIC), a consortium of 29 private and public leaders. PIC is concerned with the administration, planning, operation and policy-making decisions of local programs entitled by JTPA so that there is greater support and involvement from the private sector.

The State Manpower Fund, another program administered by the Manpower Operations Division, is geared to programs funded by non-JTPA grants for worker adjustment, and employment and training. Included in these programs are the School-to-Employment Program and the Education-for-Gainful-Employment Program.

A third program supervised by the Manpower Operations Division is the Displaced Homemakers Program, which is funded mostly with federal monies. It provides services primarily to women who lack job skills, had been dependent upon another person for support, and are now living below the poverty level or on public assistance.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elected by the voters of Suffolk County, the County Clerk serves a four-year term. The Office of the Suffolk County Clerk, mandated by the New York State Constitution and operating under the Suffolk County Charter, is also the Clerk of the Supreme and County Courts and, in addition, is responsible for record-keeping and archives.

The responsibilities of the Office of the County Clerk are carried out by eight divisions: (1) *Administration*, which carries out all administrative functions, such as personnel, purchasing, policy and procedures; (2) *Financial Services*, which carries out all services related to budget and accounting and mortgage taxation; (3) *Recording Services*, which is responsible for recording and receiving all records related to real

property transactions, State requirements and the judgment and commercial bureau operations; (4) *Court Actions*, a division that indexes and maintains a written record or minutes of all Supreme Court or County Court actions, including indictments and convictions on criminal matters, highway easements and maps; (5) *Real Property Service*, which serves the Title Bureau, the Torrens System (which receives and files all instruments affecting land titles authorized by court actions), and the Office of the Registrar and Record Access; (6) *Micrographic Services*, which microfilms all documents pertaining to real property transactions; (7) *Archives*, which maintains all County records according to the current State legal requirements for retention; and (8) *Passport*, which accepts and processes passport applications.

PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Division of Real Estate, Department of Law. In 1991, Local Law No. 13-1991, a Charter Law, consolidated all County real-estate functions, including those of the Department of Real Estate (created by Local Law 33-1974), into the Division of Real Estate within the Department of Law. The Division's three major responsibilities are to acquire, manage, and sell real property for the County. The Division has four units: (1) *Administration*, which is responsible for the operation of the Division, including the management of the acquisition of development rights to land under the Farmland Program, the Open Space Preservation Program and the Drinking Water Protection Program; (2) *Appraisal Review*, which evaluates and reviews appraisals as part of the acquisition, sale, or lease of County property; (3) *Acquisition*, which acquires properties for the County by condemnation, eminent domain and negotiation; it also accounts for all capital projects related to the activities of the Division of Real Estate's functions; (4) *Property Management and Disposition*, which conducts all physical on-site inspections, manages property acquired by the County, and prepares title abstracts; the unit handles the proceedings of application for redemption under Local Law No. 16-1976 and

New York State Law, Section 215; prepares all properties for sale at public auction; disposes of property by direct sale to adjoining property owners; and prepares sales of real property between municipalities.

Effective January 1, 1995, the Department of General Services was dissolved and its divisions absorbed by other departments. Under the Department of Civil Service are *Management Information Systems*, which is responsible for planning, developing, and coordinating all County computer information systems and operating the County's mainframe computer, the costs of these services being charged back to the departments at the end of each fiscal year according to use; and the *Telecommunications Division*, which plans, maintains and controls the costs of the County's telephone network, coordinating communication systems cooperatively with Management Information Systems. *Support Services*, which maintains the County's mailing and messenger services, the Print Shop and Typewriter Repairs, are under the Department of Public Works. *Purchasing*, which is responsible for the procurement of equipment, supplies, and services for all County departments (with the exception of those for the Board of Elections, highway construction, and maintenance for the Department of Public Works) is with the Department of Audit and Control. *Fleet Services*, which purchases or leases, maintains, and repairs County vehicles, is under the Department of Police. The costs of these services are charged back to each department at the end of the fiscal year according to use.

SUFFOLK COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

The Suffolk County "Code of Ethics" is contained in Article XXX of the County Charter. The Suffolk County Ethics Commission was established in January 1989 under Local Law No. 44-1988 and combined with the Board of Public Disclosure as a result of Local Law No. 11-1991. The Commission has three members, one appointed by the County Executive, one appointed by the County Legislature, and one appointed by the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature. No more than two members can belong to the same political party, no members can hold office in any political party, and none can be employed as a lobbyist. Members serve four-year terms, are not salaried, but are reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

The Commission's purpose is to actively monitor governmental activities and County employees to ensure integrity in government. As part of its responsibilities, the Commission reviews public disclosure statements and potential conflicts of interest, misconduct and improprieties in County Government.

See Chapter 17, "Department of Planning," for discussions of that department's functions, and for discussions of The Long Island Regional Planning Board, The Council on Environmental Quality, and The Pine Barrens Review Commission.



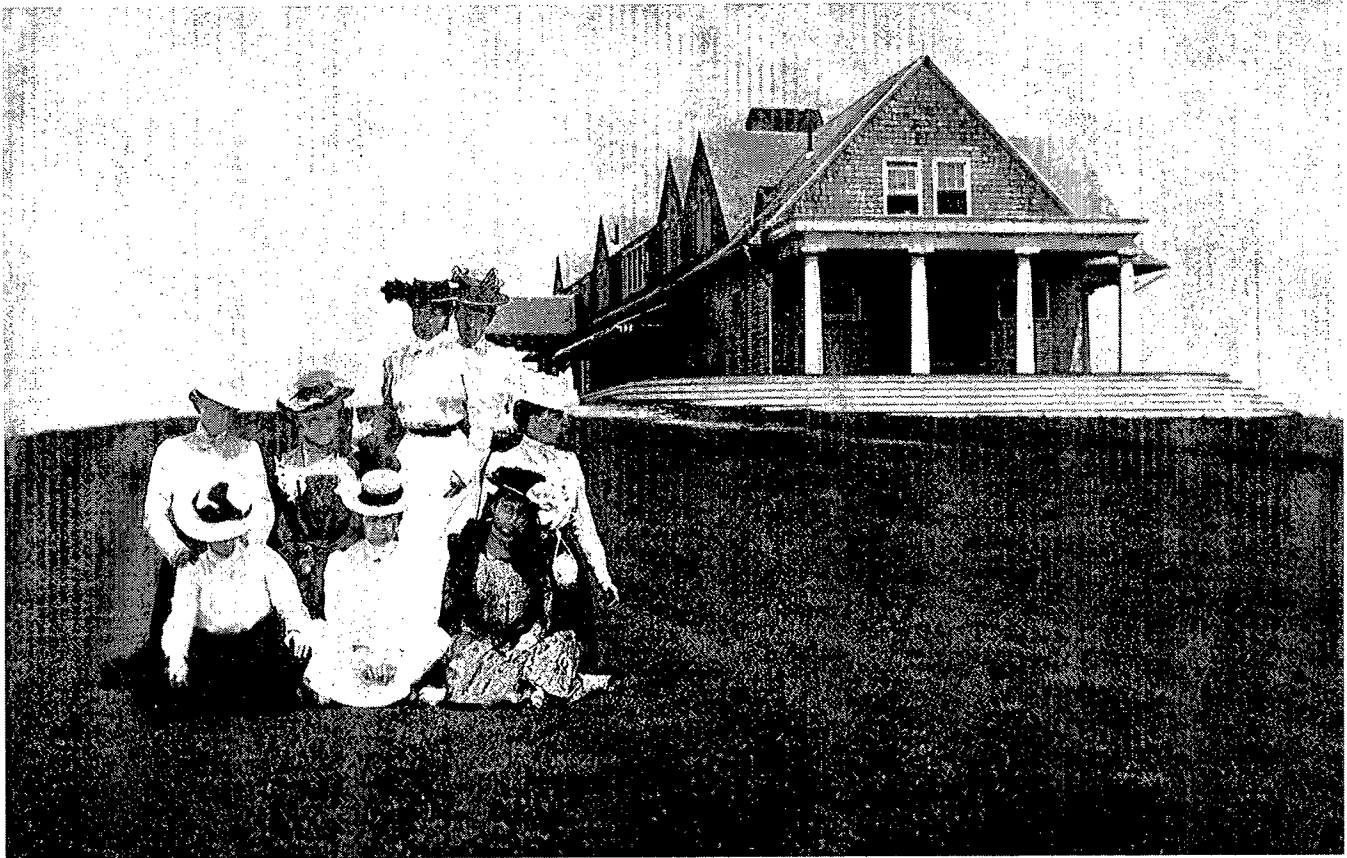


Photo by Hal Fullerton
Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead

LADIES AT GOLF CLUB, SHINNECOCK, 1901

Opened in 1891, this was the first golf course in the United States.

8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RELATIONS WITH THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

Since Suffolk County has its own charter, it is less dependent on New York State than a non-chartered county. The approval of the Municipal Home Rule Law (an amendment to Article IX of the State Constitution) by the voters of New York State in 1963, made it possible for Suffolk County and other counties with charters to supercede some State laws that are binding on counties without charters.

In spite of this rather generous degree of home rule, the State restricts the County's action in certain areas, such as landfill closures, gifts or loans to private enterprise, sale of parkland, state-mandated moratoria and wetlands development. The State mandates specific action in certain areas, such as social services, elections and health. It also provides grants and reimbursements for certain programs, such as health, mental health, youth and senior-citizen programs.

In many cases, the administration of State law is in the hands of County officials. For example, the rules governing elections are set by the State but administered by the Suffolk County Board of Elections and monitored by the New York State Board of Elections. The Suffolk County Department of Social Services administers welfare, but the rules, schedule of payments, and other matters are defined by the State. The chief law-enforcement officers of the County (District Attorney and Sheriff) are also officers of the State and may be removed by the Governor for misconduct or negligence of duty.

In addition to the aid the County receives from the State, a number of programs receive substantial amounts of aid from the Federal Government. The Federal Government's grants-in-aid and community development grants for various programs are predicated on the recipient's meeting specified requirements. These programs are often integrated and coordinated with State aid. The County long-range transportation

programs, for example, must be approved by a State coordinating committee before State or Federal aid can be claimed. Public health and welfare programs must also meet both State and Federal standards.

Both State and Federal aid programs fall into specific categories. The main ones are:

Mandated Programs. These are usually ongoing programs, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, and the Disabled Children's Programs.

Grants. Usually limited in time and for a particular project, these programs are often costly to introduce. However, the aid gives the County the opportunity to engage in a new service, often useful but costly to maintain after the initial costs have been shared.

Contract Agencies. Programs are funded by either the Federal or State Government, but a contract agency may deliver the services, with the locality acting as the overseer. Examples include the Suffolk Community Council and Smithaven Ministries.

Department heads in the County are responsible for the aid programs falling within their respective jurisdictions. In the case of mandated programs, they must comply with all State or Federal requirements. In the case of grants of contract agency funds, the department head is responsible for evaluating the benefits to be received, given the County's costs and needs. The County Executive has a Federal Aid Coordinator who is available to assist in any of these programs.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTIES

Suffolk County's strongest tie with another county is by way of the Long Island Regional Planning Board and the New Long Island

Partnership (planning and economic development).

A number of other organizations exist to promote cooperation among various levels of County government. Suffolk County cooperates with such agencies as the Regional Plan Association, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Transportation Agency, the National Association of Counties and the New York State Association of Counties.

RELATIONS WITH TOWNS

Suffolk County Government cooperates with the towns in the County in matters pertaining to police protection, probation, district court management (five western towns only), sewer construction, the training of police and fire personnel, and some highway maintenance.

The ten towns of Suffolk County provide some services for the County, such as property assessment and tax collection.



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

ST. JAMES GENERAL STORE

Originally opened in 1857, this is the oldest such store in continuous operation in New York. Situated at the east end of the "Deepwells" estate in St. James and owned by Suffolk County, the store is run by the Friends for Long Island Heritage as a turn-of-the-century gift shop and book store.

9. POLITICAL CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

Political-party activity is a way in which citizens may make their individual voices heard at all levels of government. The parties select candidates, adopt platforms, organize campaigns and, when successful, provide a source of administrative appointees. Parties are one of the vehicles through which consensus may be reached on politics and programs favored by groups of citizens.

Historically, the United States has operated under a two-party system, although additional parties have provided candidates. In New York State, the county is the basic unit of party organization. The recognized parties are required by State law to maintain county organizations. Each county organization has a function in making party rules to govern its organization.

The Election Law of the State of New York provides for party organization and procedures for the designation and nomination of candidates for party or public office. A political party is defined as one whose candidate for Governor received at least 50,000 votes Statewide in the previous gubernatorial election. At present there are five recognized parties in the State of New York: Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Right to Life, and Liberal and two new parties created in 1994, the standing of which is under dispute. The position of the parties on the ballot is determined by the number of votes each received in the last gubernatorial election. A recognized party must maintain a year-round organization and participate in primaries. However, a primary occurs only when there is a contest within the party for nomination to party or public office. Other parties and independent groups may organize to run one or more candidates in a single election and are often single-issue parties. In October 1994, there were 666,066 registered voters in Suffolk County. Party enrollment was as follows:

Democrat	176,715
Republican	280,822
Conservative	16,765
Right to Life	3,683
Liberal	5,082
Blank (undesignated)	182,873
Other	126

Of the total number of voters registered there were almost 35,000 more women than men, approximately 52% of the total number of registrants.

In 1992, a presidential election year, the number of registered voters in Suffolk County increased by more than 100,000. Presidential years usually see a sizable increase in the numbers of registrants.

ELECTION DISTRICTS

The basic unit through which a political party functions is the election district. In 1994, there were 991 election districts in Suffolk County. Election districts are established by the Suffolk County Board of Elections. State law requires districts to be divided when they reach 1,000 registered voters. Generally, each political party has two committee persons in each district.

COMMITTEE PERSONS

To become a committee member an individual must obtain a petition from party headquarters, have it signed by 5% of the enrolled members of the party in the election district, and have it returned to the County Board of Elections. If unopposed, the candidate automatically becomes a committee member; if opposed, party members voting in a primary decide. If a vacancy occurs, the remaining members of the committee may appoint a committee person to assume the duties until the next primary. This procedure is repeated biennially, in odd years for

Republicans and even years for Democrats, Conservatives, and Liberals. There are no Right to Life committee persons. The duties of a committee person include the circulation of petitions for town, County, and State candidates; conducting the canvass of the election district to urge residents to vote for party candidates; membership in the town committee; and membership in the party's County committee.

TOWN COMMITTEES

Town committees consist of all of a party's committee persons from the election districts in each town. Each town elects its own chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer.

POLITICAL CLUBS

Assisting the town committee may be one or more political clubs. These groups provide workers for the campaign, contribute funds to the committee, and keep its members informed on issues. Factors such as ethnic groups and geographical location may be influential in forming clubs. These clubs are granted a charter from the County Chair with the approval of the town chairs.

COUNTY COMMITTEES

All committee persons are members of the party's County committee. This committee elects a County Chair and other officers to carry on the year-round business of the party. A smaller body, the Executive Committee, may handle party policy and grievance matters and proposed by-law changes.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Party rules and State law outline the manner in which candidates for public offices in the vil-

lages, towns, and counties are nominated. Candidates for Congress, the State Legislature and County-wide offices are designated by the Executive Committee and then voted on by the committee persons at a County convention. Party nominations for candidates for town office are made at the party's town nominating meetings.

To appear on the ballot in the general election, a candidate may obtain a petition from party headquarters or the candidates may make up their own individual petitions by following the form in the New York State Election Law, Section 135. It must be signed by enrolled members of the party and it must be returned to the County Board of Elections. The number of signatures required is 5% of the number of the party's voters who voted in that political entity in the most recent gubernatorial election. All petitions must be filed approximately nine weeks prior to primary day.

New parties or independents may nominate candidates under special procedures set up by the New York State Election Law. Each year the New York State Board of Elections publishes a political calendar which contains all pertinent dates.

ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections. The County Board of Elections has responsibility for conducting the primary and general elections. State law requires that the Board be composed of equal representation of the two major political parties. In Suffolk County there are two Commissioners (Democrat and Republican) appointed by the County Legislature on recommendation of the County Chair of each party. They serve a four-year term. There are also two Assistant Commissioners, one from each of the two major parties. Each Commissioner appoints an Inspector for each election district where one voting machine is present. When two machines are used in an election district, two Clerks are appointed.

Qualifications for Voting in New York State.

To vote in a general election, you must be

- a citizen of the United States by birth or naturalization;
- 18 years of age by Election Day;
- a resident of the State, county, city, town or village for at least 30 days preceding Election Day;
- registered to vote with the Board of Elections in your county of residence.

Registration.

1. New York State has supplemented its system of in-person registration with mail registration. Multi-purpose mail registration forms are available in libraries, post offices, town clerks' offices, Bureau of Motor Vehicle Offices, other State and public offices and from the Board of Elections (see below for address).

2. Individuals may register *in person* at the Suffolk County Board of Elections in Yaphank. In addition, in-person registration may be scheduled in Presidential years at local places of registration.

3. Once you have registered, it is unnecessary to re-register unless you move or fail to vote in any primary, general or special election within five consecutive years in which two Presidential elections were held. When registering, you may enroll in a political party.

4. You must be registered at least 25 days before the election, with certain exceptions:

- if you move within the County after the last day of registration, but ten days prior to the election, you may register at the Board of Elections in Yaphank;
- if you are not a resident of the County for 30 days prior to a Presidential Election, you may get a special ballot by applying at the Board of Elections.

Party Enrollment. Party enrollment entitles a voter to vote in the party's primary elections, to sign designating and nominating petitions, and

to hold party office. However, a voter may exercise these privileges only if enrolled in a party before the preceding general election. Exceptions are made for new residents, for those newly eligible to register, and for other special categories.

A voter may enroll in a party or change enrollment at any time at the Board of Elections, or by mail, or in Presidential years only, at the time of local registration.

Absentee Voting. Any registered voter who expects to be absent from the county of residence at election time, or who cannot appear because of illness or disability, may request an absentee ballot for a general election, a village election, or a primary election. Absentee ballot forms are available from any New York State Board of Elections office or from the village clerk for village elections.

Application for an absentee ballot must be made not later than seven days immediately prior to the election. Mailed absentee ballots must be returned postmarked no later than the day before the election and received by the Board of Elections no later than seven days after the election (see below for address of Board of Elections).

Special Military Ballots. Special Absentee Ballots are sent to members of the military forces who file absentee ballot application requests with the Board of Elections.

The spouse, parent or child of a member of the military forces who is qualified to vote and is a resident of the same election district and is accompanying the member of the military forces is accorded the same privilege of registering and voting as the relative in the military. The Board of Elections should be contacted for specific information (see below for address of the Board of Elections).

General Elections. General elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to elect national, State, County, and town officials and to vote on amendments to the State Constitution or on State, County or town questions.

FIGURE 9.1 SAMPLE BALLOT

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Elective Offices and Candidates										
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	REPUBLICAN B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 4B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 5B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 6B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 4B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 5B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 6B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 7B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 8B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 9B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 10B	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican 11
	CONSERVATIVE C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 4C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 5C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 6C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 4C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 5C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 6C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 7C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 8C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 9C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative 10C	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservat 11
	RIGHT TO LIFE D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 4D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 5D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 6D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 4D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 5D	<input type="checkbox"/> Right To Life 6D					
	LIBERAL E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 4E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 5E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 6E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 4E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 5E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 6E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 7E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 8E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 9E	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal 10E	

Primary Elections. Primaries are held only when there is a contest within a political party for nomination as a candidate for public office or for election to party office. New York State's primary is usually held in September. In Presidential election years, an additional primary is held in April to elect delegates to national nominating conventions. Only voters enrolled in a political party may vote in that party's primary (see Party Enrollment).

Village Elections. Residents of incorporated villages elect their mayors, boards of trustees, and village justices in March or June. Village residents registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in village elections. In addition, a special day of registration may be designated by the villages.

Special District Elections. In fire and water districts with elected commissioners, elections are held annually in December. District residents who are citizens and at least 18 years of age may vote in these elections. Advance registration is not required. There is no absentee voting.

School and Library Elections. Each school district sets its own dates for voting on the school budget and electing school board members, and for voting on library budgets and electing members of the library's board of trustees. School district residents registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in their district's school and library elections, which are generally held in the Spring. Additional registration dates are set for voters not currently registered.

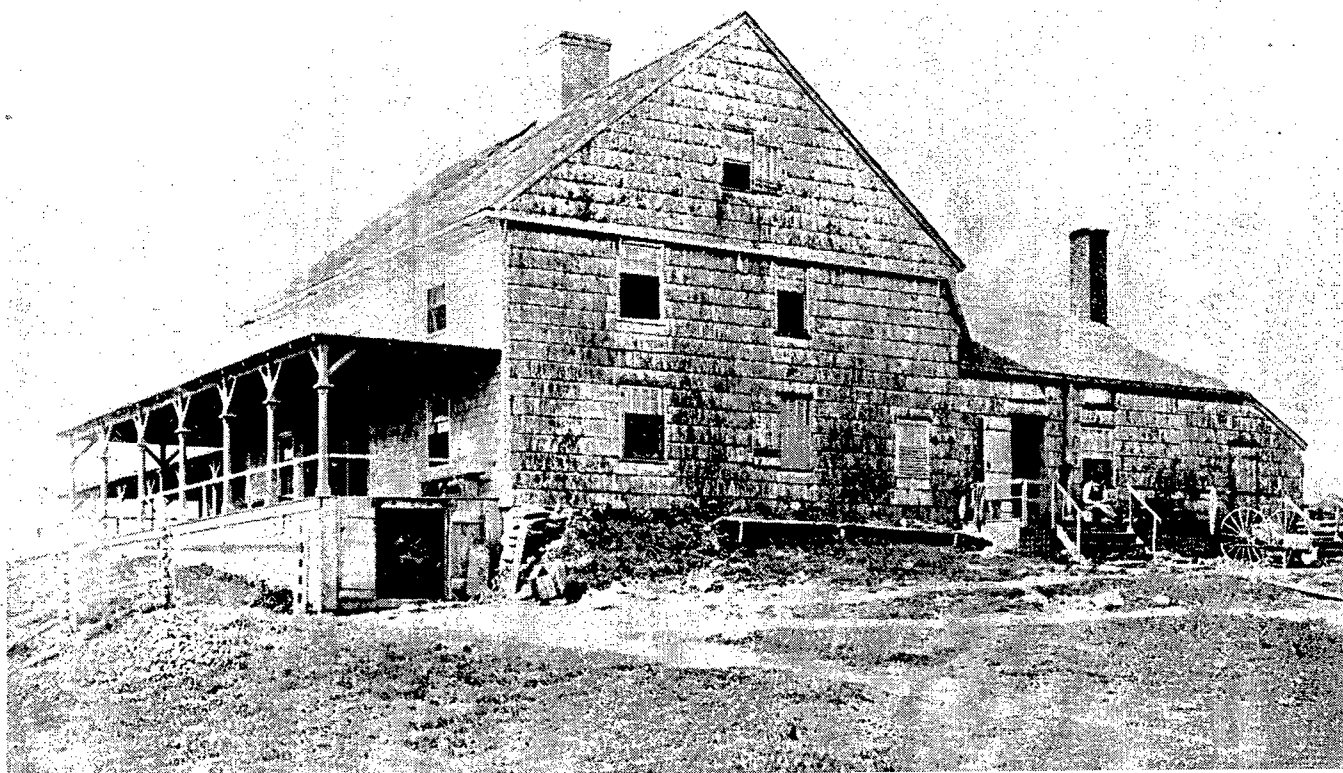
SUFFOLK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Suffolk County Board of Elections administers the New York State Election Law and other electoral processes in Suffolk County. Since the New York State Election Law is subject to yearly changes, current information about registration, voting, location of polling places, special enrollments, absentee voting, and qualifications for running for office, may be obtained by contacting

The Board of Elections
County of Suffolk
P.O. Box 700
Yaphank, NY 11980-0700
Phone: (516) 852-4500

or

League of Women Voters
of Suffolk County
P.O. Box 1440
Stony Brook, NY 11790
Phone: (516) 246-5851



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

THIRD HOUSE

Built in the early 1800s, Third House is located in Montauk County Park. It was located in a cattle-grazing area and also served as the headquarters of Col. Theodore Roosevelt after his Rough Rider troops were quarantined at Montauk in 1898.



Photo courtesy of Helene Gerard

ALBERT EINSTEIN AND DAVID ROTHMAN, SOUTHOLD, 1939

Einstein vacationed on Long Island for many years.

10. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

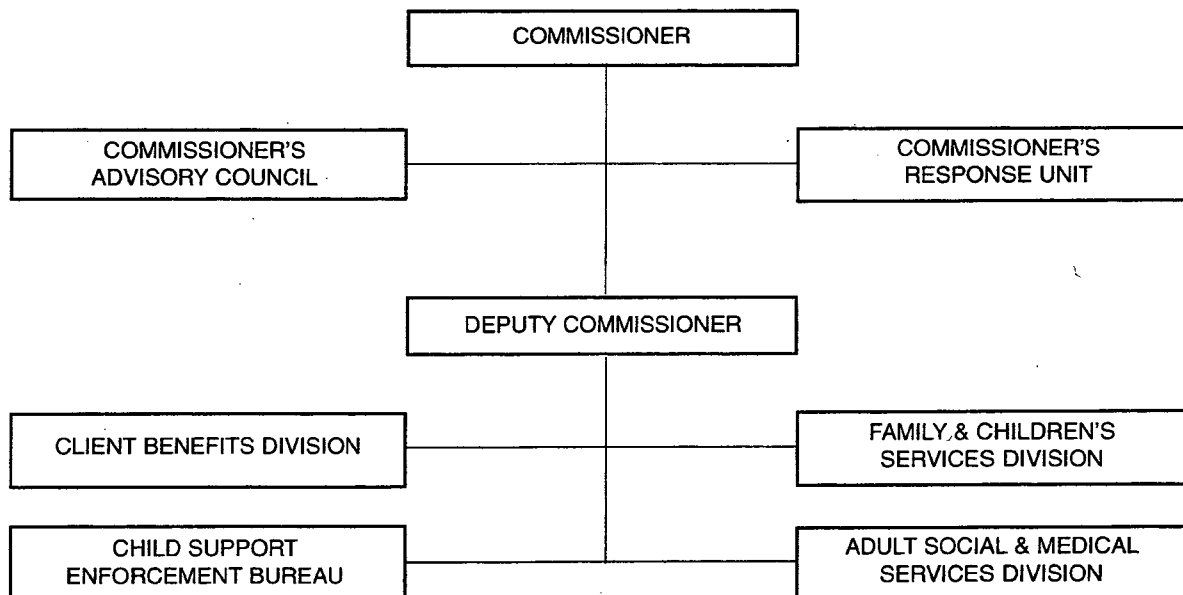
DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW—SCOPE OF SERVICES

Federal and State law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist and care for persons in Suffolk County who need and are declared eligible for public assistance, medical assistance, food stamps, energy or housing assistance. The Department is required also to provide protective services for vulnerable adults and children, and services to keep children and families together in order to prevent the need for foster care. DSS is the mandated agency for implementing the enforcement of child support programs, including paternity determination, locating absent parent respondents and collecting family support monies.

The Department currently provides Public Assistance, Medicaid, Housing and other financial aid services to County residents through service center operations in Islip (Bay Shore), Wyandanch, Brookhaven (Coram), Riverhead, Smithtown (Hauppauge), and Mastic. Child Support Enforcement Services and Adult Social and Medical Services are provided at Oser Avenue in Hauppauge, and Family and Children's Services are provided at the Equipark site in Ronkonkoma.

The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services has an Advisory Council of 20 to 50 representatives of the general public, providers of DSS services, and clients or former clients. Appointed by the Commissioner, they serve two-year terms.

FIGURE 10.1. SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



CLIENT BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

This Administration provides money, housing, food and employment assistance for low-income families.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC) provides a monthly grant (basic allowance plus shelter allowance) to needy families with children under age 18, or under 19 if attending school. The children must live with a specified relative and be deprived of parental support or care because of absence, death, incapacity or unemployment of a parent who is the main wage earner.

Home Relief (HR) offers help to individuals whose income and resources do not meet basic needs, and who have no legally responsible relatives to support them. Families not eligible for ADC may qualify for HR.

Food Stamps are coupons to use instead of money for buying food. Public Assistance recipients and other low-income families are eligible to receive them.

Disabled Client Assistance Program (DCAP) helps disabled individuals obtain Federal Social Security benefits.

Emergency Assistance helps to meet shelter, fuel, repair, utility, food, and other essential needs of households faced with sudden emergencies.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), a Federal program, provides energy assistance to low-income and elderly households.

Housing Services aims to prevent homelessness and assists in obtaining alternative housing.

Job Opportunity and Basic Skills Training Program (JOBS) helps Public Assistance recipients attain self-sufficiency through training, education and job placement. The County Department of Labor carries out many components of this program.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Administration is responsible for helping clients achieve or maintain economic independence; for preserving, reuniting, or rehabilitating families; for preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children; and for assuring the appropriate type of care, whether institutional, community-based or home-based. The Administration provides services through the Child Protective Services Bureau and the Family Preservation Bureau. The following major programs are included:

Child Protective Services investigates reports of child abuse and neglect made to the New York State Central Register "Hotline" (800-342-3720). The Bureau provides and coordinates the provision of rehabilitative services to the child and the family.

Preventive Services provides counseling services to assist families in preventing a child at risk from entering foster care. This may include referrals for supportive services.

Foster Care places children in the custody of the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services into family foster homes, group homes, or licensed child-care institutions. Room and board, clothing, medical care and other special needs are supplied by this service.

Day Care provides care for children, up to 14 years of age, in day-care centers or family day-care homes for part of the day. Day care is available to Public Assistance families who are employed or are in training programs or who are receiving preventive or protective services for children. Children of low-income families may also be eligible.

Adoption Services assists natural parents in planning a permanent home for children. The Bureau also monitors the adoptive home until the legal adoption is finalized.

Family Planning refers people to various organizations that provide information and counseling on limiting family size.

Services for Unwed Parents provides counseling, planning, shelter, and other services for unwed parents who wish to keep their children after delivery or wish to place their children for adoption.

Summer Camp Services arranges for children in families receiving ADC or in Foster Care to attend summer camp.

Homemaker Services provides assistance with light household chores, such as shopping, laundry, food preparation, and running errands. It is intended to serve families with children when a caretaker is ill, incapacitated or absent, or for adults because of illness or incapacity.

Service for Victims of Domestic Violence provides services, including shelter, counseling, support groups, and court advocacy, for victims of domestic violence; the bureau operates through several agencies under contract with the Department.

Teenage Services (TASA) helps teenage parents receiving Public Assistance to reach self-sufficiency, thereby reducing the possibility of further pregnancies during the teen years.

ADULT SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Protective Services for Adults (PSA) is provided to adults, 18 or older, who are unable to protect their own interests and whose well-being is in danger because of mental or physical impairments. PSA clients have unmet essential needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, and have no one willing or able to help. Adults in need of protective services may

include the frail elderly, the mentally disabled, the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled, the seriously ill, the physically disabled, and alcohol and substance abusers.

Medicaid provides essential medical services for persons receiving Public Assistance and other low-income families. Federally mandated services include in-patient and out-patient hospital care; skilled nursing care; laboratory and x-ray services; physician services; early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment of children; transportation services; home health-care services; and family-planning services. Also, New York State's Medicaid program provides many optional services, including dental care, personal care, drugs and sick-room supplies, rehabilitative therapies, and optical services.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

The goals of the Child Support Program are to ensure that children are supported by their parents, to develop family responsibility, and to reduce or eliminate the costs of Public Assistance. The collection of child support helps Public-Assistance families to move toward self-sufficiency, and helps families who are struggling financially to remain independent.

The Child Support Enforcement Bureau (CSEB) is responsible for locating absent parents, establishing paternity, obtaining support orders, collecting and distributing support payments, monitoring and enforcing compliance with support orders, cooperating with other child-support jurisdictions nationwide, and interacting with other programs within the Department of Social Services to maximize effectiveness. CSEB provides these services to all custodial parents receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children services and to other custodial parents on request.

HOW TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT

Persons seeking information about the Suffolk County Department of Social Services and the programs offered can call the Commissioner's Response Unit at (516) 853-6705 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; after 4:30

p.m. and during weekends and holidays, they can call the Emergency Hotline at (516) 854-9100. For further information concerning resources and referrals, educational or recreational programs, and other services, see the listing in this book, "Important Suffolk County Information Sources," for important and useful phone numbers.

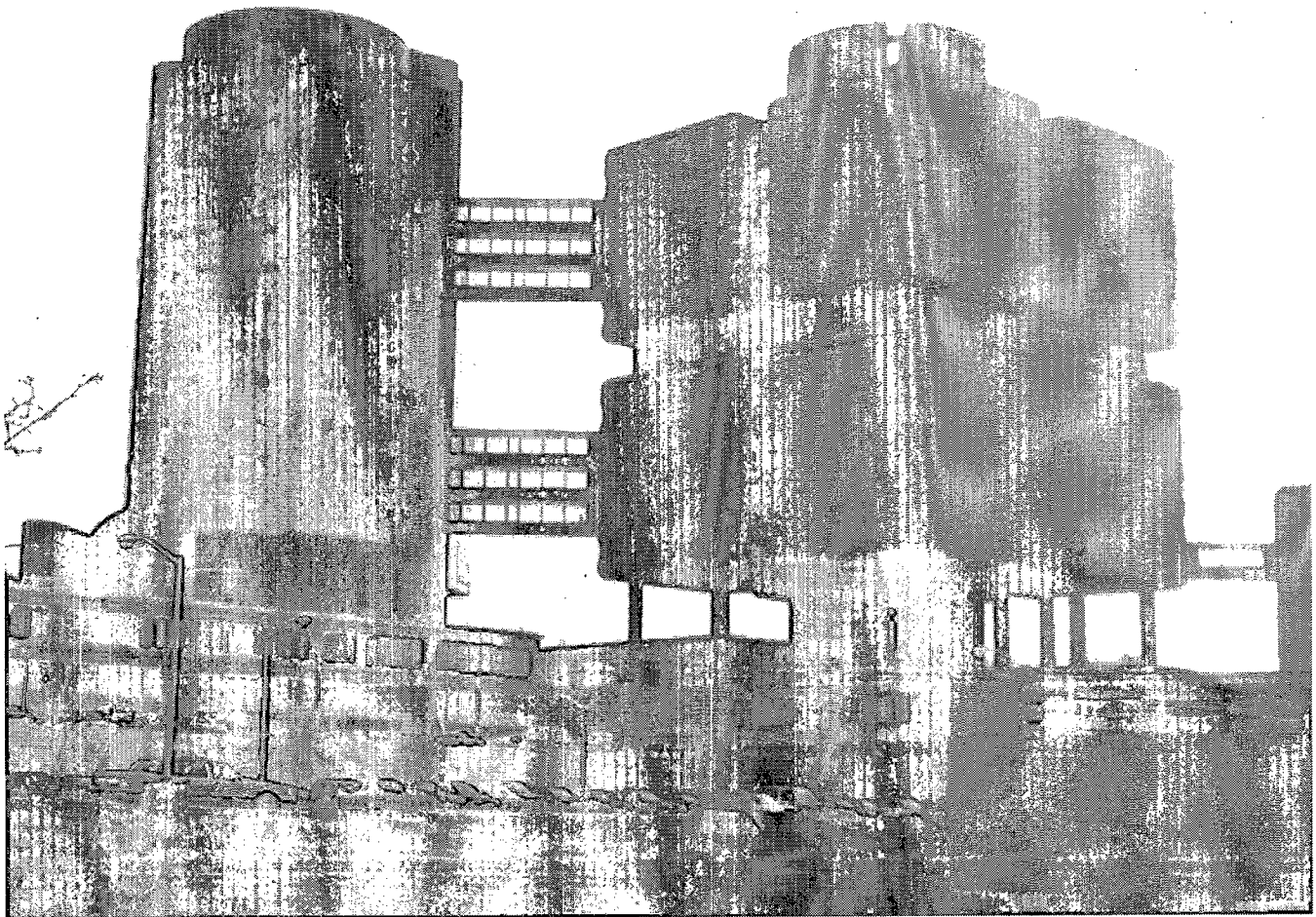


Photo by Beth Gordon

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, STONY BROOK

Part of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, this modern hospital, with helicopter pad for receiving and transferring patients, is a major provider of tertiary care for Suffolk County residents.

11. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

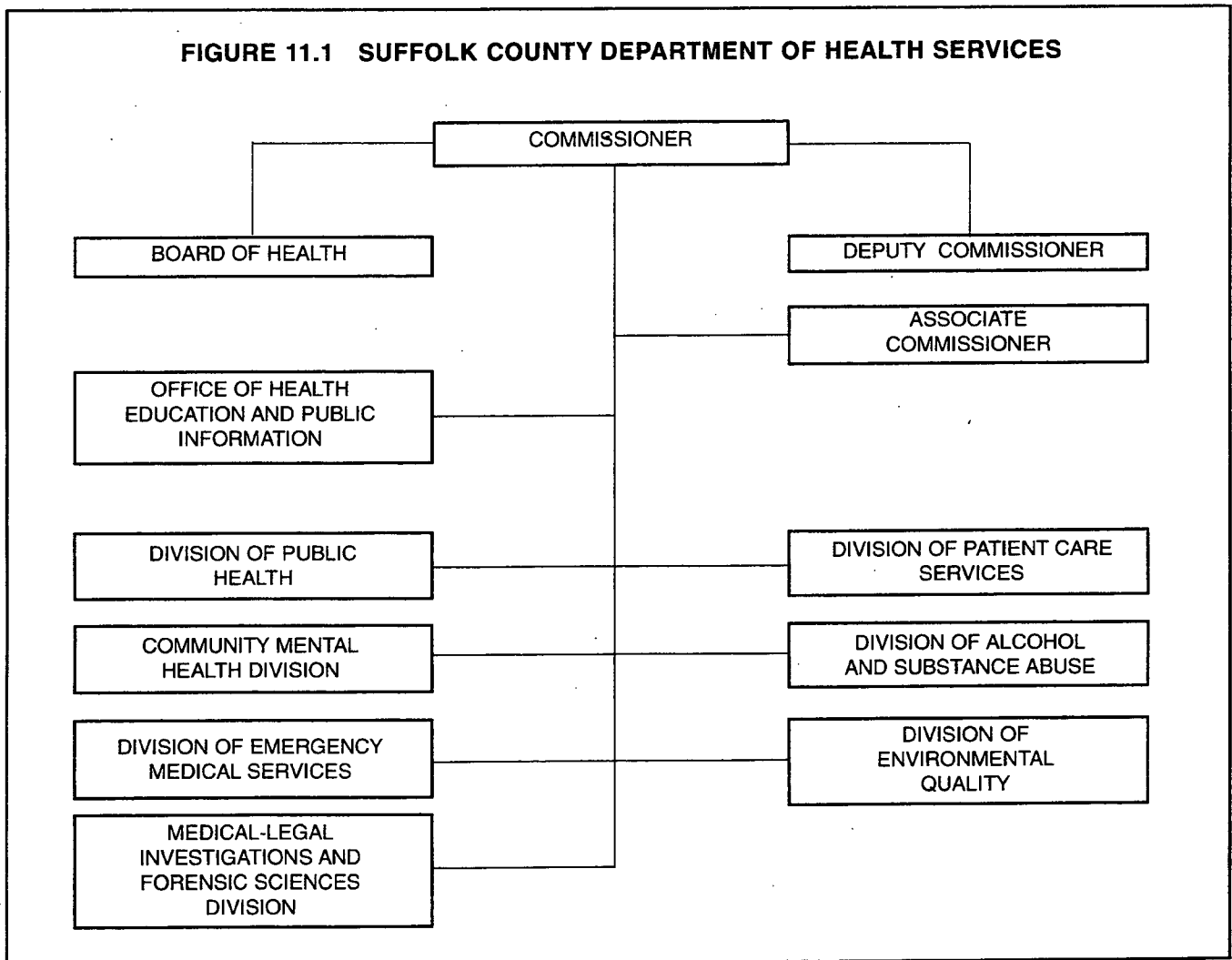
The Department of Health Services is a unified agency bringing together traditional public-health functions, such as disease control, direct patient care, mental-health services, coordination of emergency medical services, the programming and monitoring of environmental health, handicapped children's services and functions of the Office of the Medical Examiner. This arrangement enhances coordination and avoids duplication. The Department's mission is to preserve and protect the health and safety of the residents of the County.

For telephone numbers, see the blue pages of the Suffolk County Telephone Directory, "County Government Offices, Health Services Department."

BOARD OF HEALTH

By County Charter, the Board of Health has seven members and is chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Health Services. Other members are the Chair of the Health Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature and at least three physicians, appointed by the Legislature for six-year terms. The Board of Health, subject to the provisions of the Public Health Law and State Sanitary Code, has the power to adopt, promulgate, amend or repeal rules and regulations affecting public health in the County. They may consider any matter relating to the preservation and improvement of public health.

FIGURE 11.1 SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



OFFICE OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

This Office gives presentations on such topics as AIDS, smoking, Lyme disease and rabies, to schools, professional and community groups. It also acts as a clearinghouse for materials on health education.

PATIENT CARE SERVICES DIVISION

Health Centers at Amityville, Bay Shore, Brentwood, Coram, Patchogue, Riverhead, Shirley, and Wyandanch are operated by this Division or their services are contracted for by this Division. Comprehensive services include AIDS testing, adult medicine, audiology, family planning, pediatrics, prenatal care, sickle-cell screening, venereal diseases, and providing food vouchers and nutrition education for pregnant women, infants and children (WIC).

Jail Medical Services provide medical care for inmates at the Riverhead and Yaphank Correctional facilities.

Suffolk County Skilled Nursing Facility, a new facility (constructed in 1993-94) with 285 beds, 25 of which are for AIDS patients, replaces the 215-bed nursing home in Yaphank.

Lead Program screens for elevated lead levels in children. When the level is found to be high, a nurse makes a home visit and a sanitarian makes an environmental inspection; together they advise the family.

Medical Social Work Unit counsels patients and families and offers consultation to other professionals and the general public. It also operates a health-information and referral service.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This Division works with providers of emergency services, community groups, hospitals and

educational institutions to improve pre-hospital emergency medical care. It also provides technical assistance, training and education, and bio-medical telemetry equipment, to assure appropriate care for the suddenly ill or injured.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Bureau of Chest Disease provides consultation, examination services, and treatment and follow-up for tuberculosis.

Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control offers consultation for the prevention, control and treatment of communicable diseases, including venereal diseases, maintains a register of communicable diseases, and runs immunization clinics as required by law.

Bureau of Public Health Nursing operates a Certified Home Health Agency, a Long-Term Care Program and an AIDS Home-Care Program. Through these programs, the Bureau provides part-time skilled nursing care and health guidance to pregnant and post-partum women, to infants and children with special needs, and to children and adults with acute or chronic illnesses, including HIV/AIDS. The Bureau also provides home health aides, social work and rehabilitative therapies to people in their homes.

Bureau of Environmental Protection enforces the provisions of the State and County Health Laws and Sanitary Codes as they apply to public eating establishments, hotels and motels, children's camps, mobile-home parks, migrant labor camps and x-ray facilities.

Bureau of AIDS Prevention and Control conducts active surveillance of AIDS cases, does epidemiological studies, offers consultation and medical monitoring of employees with high-risk occupational exposure, and educates the public and professionals.

Bureau of Services for Children with Disabilities coordinates services for young children (ages birth to 5 years) with disabilities and for their

families. Children who are autistic, emotionally disturbed, learning-disabled, mentally retarded, deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired, visually impaired, orthopedic-impaired, those with chronic or acute health problems and those with multiple handicaps are among those served by this Bureau.

Bureau of Physically Handicapped Children's Program promotes high-quality care for handicapped children under 21 who need rehabilitation or treatment for chronic conditions. Diagnostic evaluation and orthodontic care, as well as financial assistance in some cases, are among the services provided.

Bureau of Employee Medical Review fulfills mandated requirements in regard to the health of all County employees.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

This Division provides mental health services to County residents through direct sources as well as by contracting with public and private agencies for treatment of the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. It shares the cost of mental health treatment ordered by a criminal court or by the Family Court.

DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Treatment and preventive services are provided by this Division or it contracts with towns, schools and not-for-profit agencies. Services include outpatient treatment for alcoholism and cocaine use, methadone maintenance treatment, AIDS education and counseling, and vocational

rehabilitation. Division personnel work with school personnel, parent groups, human-service agencies, community organizations, and businesses.

MEDICAL-LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS AND FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION

This Division is responsible for investigating sudden, accidental, suspicious, violent or unattended deaths. It operates laboratories servicing the Health, Police, District Attorney and Probation departments.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Office of Water and Wastewater Management monitors the quality of public water-supply wells. It samples some private wells for pesticide contamination. It reviews plans for, and inspects construction of, sewage-disposal systems, private wells, public water connections and subdivisions. It also inspects trucks hauling solid wastes.

Office of Pollution Control regulates all aspects of the storage, transfer and use of toxic and hazardous materials in the County. It also regulates underground and above-ground petroleum storage tanks.

Office of Ecology reviews environmental impact statements; carries out conservation and environmental education programs; monitors the quality and quantity of the underground water supply; assures compliance with regulations on underground gasoline and fuel oil tanks; inspects public swimming pools and bathing beaches; and protects marine resources (water, shellfish and finfish).



Photo by Beth Gordon

THOMPSON HOUSE

Located on North Country Road in Setauket, the Thompson House was built in the early 1700s. It was home to the Thompson family for 180 years. Several were doctors, and Benjamin Thompson wrote an authoritative history of Long Island (*History of Long Island*, 1839). The "saltbox" building is authentically furnished and has a colonial garden with spices and medicinal herbs. It is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 1-5 p.m., Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

12. EDUCATION

STATE SUPERVISION

New York State's first Education Act of 1812 divided the state into school districts. Minimum standards for education throughout the State are set by the Legislature through Education Law, together with both the rules of the State's 15-member Board of Regents (the central authority for all levels of education from preschool through university) and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Local school districts may further improve or expand their curricula.

In the early 19th century literally every one-room school comprised a school district. The State continuously has encouraged consolidation of smaller, uneconomical districts into larger ones. The State provides financial assistance to public school districts, sharing their operating costs up to a ceiling that is set by the State Legislature. The value of real property in the local district and the average number of pupils attending its school determines the State's share of educational costs for each district, as computed by a set of formulas adopted by the State Legislature. These formulas fall into three major categories. The first category, unrestricted aid, is based on such factors as the district's number of pupils, the district's fiscal capacity (i.e., the district's real-estate tax base per pupil and the district's income per pupil compared to a Statewide average), and the district's local tax effort. The second category, pupil-based aid, is based on characteristics of the district's pupils. The State provides additional aid to support educational activities for pupils with disabilities, gifted and talented pupils, and pupils with limited English proficiency. The State also provides additional aid to districts with high percentages of impoverished pupils. The final category, expenditure-based aid, is based on a district's building, transportation and BOCES expenditures. The State reimburses each district for a portion of these

expenditures. The rate of reimbursement from the State varies with the district's wealth, i.e., the poorer the school district, the higher the rate of State reimbursement. Each year the State Legislature determines how much and in what manner State aid will be distributed. The difference between Federal and State aid and a local district's budget is made up by the local districts through adjustment of the property tax rate.

LOCAL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

In 1993 there were 70 school districts in Suffolk County with school populations ranging from less than 100 to over 10,000 pupils. School districts are of three types: Common School Districts, empowered to operate only a kindergarten through 8th grade program; Union Free School Districts (UFSDs), operating a kindergarten through 12th grade program; and Central School Districts (CSDs), formed by a merger of two or more districts (see Table 12.1) Each school district is an independent unit of government, the boundaries of which do not necessarily correspond with those of any other political entity. School districts must follow the requirements of the State's education laws, but otherwise are autonomous in fiscal matters.

Responsibility on the local level for the educational program lies with the school board, whose members (three to nine) are elected by district voters, serve without pay, but are reimbursed for expenses. They act as a liaison between the community and the school administration. In addition, the school board annually prepares a school budget, which must include programs mandated by the State, and which is submitted to school district voters for adoption. The cost of local education is financed through property taxes, State aid and some Federal assistance. Towns collect the school taxes for each district.

Those school districts of Suffolk County which are directed by a district principal are grouped into two supervisory districts (see Table 12.1): Supervisory District I has an office in Patchogue, and SD II in Dix Hills. The district superintendent of each of these districts is

the local representative of the State Commissioner of Education. The remaining school districts of the County are village superintendencies and deal directly with the State Education Department instead of through supervisory districts.

TABLE 12.1
SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS*
INCLUDING SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT, FEBRUARY 1993**

Eastern Suffolk BOCES I				Western Suffolk BOCES II	
East Suffolk District	No. of Pupils	Mid-Suffolk District	No. of Pupils	West Suffolk District	No. of Pupils
Amaganssett UFSD	88	Bayport-Blue Point UFSD	2106	Amityville UFSD	2917
Bridgehampton UFSD	141	Bay Shore UFSD	4511	Babylon UFSD	1788
East Hampton UFSD	1259	Brentwood UFSD	11881	Cold Spring Harbor CSD	1379
East Quogue UFSD	296	Center Moriches UFSD	1154	Commack UFSD	5607
Eastport UFSD	588	Central Islip UFSD	4782	Copiague UFSD	3943
Greenport UFSD	580	Comsewogue UFSD	3228	Deer Park UFSD	3483
Hampton Bays UFSD	1204	Connetquot CSD	6753	Elwood UFSD	1898
Laurel Common SD	119	East Islip UFSD	4362	Half Hollow Hills CSD	7185
Little Flower UFSD	na	East Moriches UFSD	588	Harborfields CSD	2559
Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD	1231	Fire Island UFSD	46	Huntington UFSD	4175
Montauk UFSD	292	Fisher's Island UFSD	64	Kings Park CSD	3192
New Suffolk Common SD	18	Hauppauge UFSD	3448	Lindenhurst UFSD	6141
Oysterponds UFSD	102	Islip UFSD	2699	North Babylon UFSD	4422
Quogue UFSD	75	Longwood CSD	8707	Northport-E. Northport UFSD	5148
Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD	155	Middle Country CSD	9871	Smithtown CSD	7469
Riverhead CSD	3832	Miller Place UFSD	2698	South Huntington UFSD	5250
Sagaponack Common SD	13	Mount Sinai UFSD	1916	West Babylon UFSD	4007
Sag Harbor UFSD	577	Patchogue-Medford UFSD	8529	Wyandanch UFSD	2020
Shelter Island UFSD	230	Port Jefferson UFSD	1284		
Shoreham-Wading River CSD	1957	Rocky Point UFSD	2683		
Southampton UFSD	1362	Sachem CSD	15050		
Southold UFSD	749	Sayville UFSD	3172		
Springs UFSD	499	South Country CSD	4758		
Tuckahoe Common SD	186	South Manor UFSD	1063		
Wainscott Common SD	14	Three Village CSD	6870		
Westhampton Beach UFSD	1345	West Islip UFSD	4617		
		William Floyd UFSD	9300		

*District names and BOCES number: *Scope Directory of Suffolk County Public Schools and Educational Institutions Serving Long Island, 1991-1992*: 13-86.

**New York: *The State of Learning, A Report to the Governor and the Legislature on the Educational Status of the State's Schools, February, 1993*: 17-19.

Common SD: Common School District
 UFSD: Union Free School District
 CSD: Central School District

BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) was established for the purpose of providing shared education services for all of the school districts located within a supervisory district, whether they are village superintendencies or district principalships. The boards of education of the component districts of a BOCES unit elect a board consisting of five to nine members. This BOCES Board is responsible for selecting a chief executive officer who also serves as the district superintendent. The selection of a district superintendent must be approved by the State Commissioner of Education. Activities carried on by BOCES districts are financed primarily by the local districts. Local districts in turn receive State aid to cover a portion of their BOCES expenses.

In 1993 the New York State Commissioner of Education ruled in favor of the merger of BOCES I and BOCES II, now known as BOCES I, to provide job training, special education and other programs to local schools of eastern and central Suffolk County. BOCES III, serving populous western Suffolk County, is now known as BOCES II.

Some of the services provided on a regional basis by BOCES are (1) administration and management of services; (2) occupational education; (3) pupil personnel services, such as guidance and psychological services; (4) special educational programs for the mentally and physically challenged; (5) various cultural programs; and (6) itinerant teacher services to small districts.

In addition, each of the BOCES Supervisory Districts has its own special purpose: BOCES I is the instructional materials and media center for Suffolk County. It is also the center for the provision of regional data processing services for the County; and BOCES II operates the Long Island Regional Instructional Computer Services (LIRICS), which is used by schools in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties.

NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Center operates elementary parish schools and high schools in Suffolk County. A number of parochial schools with Jewish and Protestant religious affiliations are also in operation. In addition, there are private, nonsectarian day and boarding schools at both elementary and secondary levels, schools for children with mental, emotional or physical handicaps, and nursery schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is available at many levels and at various locations throughout Suffolk County:

Adelphi University, Suffolk Campus,
165 Pidgeon Hill Rd., Huntington Station, NY 11746. Graduate & 4-year undergraduate studies. Arts & sciences, banking, money management, business, nursing, social work, education, advanced psychological studies.

Briarcliffe: The College for Business, Patchogue Campus,
10 Lake St., Patchogue, NY 11772.

Dowling College, Idlehour Blvd., Oakdale, NY 11769, and Riverhead Center, 1225 Ostrander Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901. 4-year undergraduate & graduate courses. Natural sciences, social sciences, computer science, computer information systems, aeronautics, airway science, education, business.

Long Island University, Southampton Campus, Montauk Hwy., Southampton, NY 11968, and Brentwood Campus, 2 Ave., Brentwood, NY 11717. 4-year college. Art, biology, business, chemistry, education, English, environmental science, geography, marine science, social sciences.

New York Institute of Technology, Central Islip Campus, Carlton Ave., Central Islip, NY 11722-4501. Associate degree, undergraduate and some graduate offerings. Architectural technology, behavioral sciences, business, computer science, culinary arts, electromechanical computer technology, general studies, hotel and restaurant administration, mechanical technology.

St. Joseph's College, Suffolk Branch Campus, 155 Roe Blvd., Patchogue, NY 11772. 4-year college. Arts & sciences, accounting, biology, business, child study (elementary education, special education), English, history, human relations, psychology, recreation, social sciences (economics, political science, sociology), general studies adult programs: community health, health administration, nursing, management of human resources.

State University of New York at Stony Brook, Nicolls Rd., Stony Brook, NY 11794. 4-year undergraduate plus graduate schools. Degrees granted: BA, BS, BE (engineering), MA, MS, MM, MAT, MPS, MSW, MFA, DA (Doctor of Arts), DMA, PhD, MD, DDS; Advanced Certificates. Contact University for catalogue listings of undergraduate and graduate course offerings and advanced institutes.

Suffolk Community College, 533 College Rd., Selden, NY 11784-2899; **Western Campus**, Crooked Hill Rd., Brentwood, NY 11717-1092; **Eastern Campus**, Speonk Riverhead Rd., Riverhead NY 11901-3499;

TechniCenter, satellite facility in Hauppauge. First 2 years of liberal arts & sciences and pre-professional programs, including curriculum emphases in fine arts, music, drama, and engineering; also 2-year programs in many technical subjects; 1-year certificate programs offered.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), part of a nationwide educational program funded by Suffolk County, the State of New York and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers Statewide and local programs geared to the needs of County residents as designated by volunteer boards.

CCE provides research-based educational programming in agriculture, marine science, home economics, and 4-H youth development. These programs help Suffolk County residents by increasing economic development, enhancing the environment and developing human potential. The CCE sites are the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center, Yaphank; the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, with an office in Deer Park; the Marine Environmental Learning Center in Southold; and the Education Center, housing the Satellite Distance Learning Center, the Home Horticultural Diagnostic Lab, the TeleCUE education message system and the Consumer HelpLine.



13. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

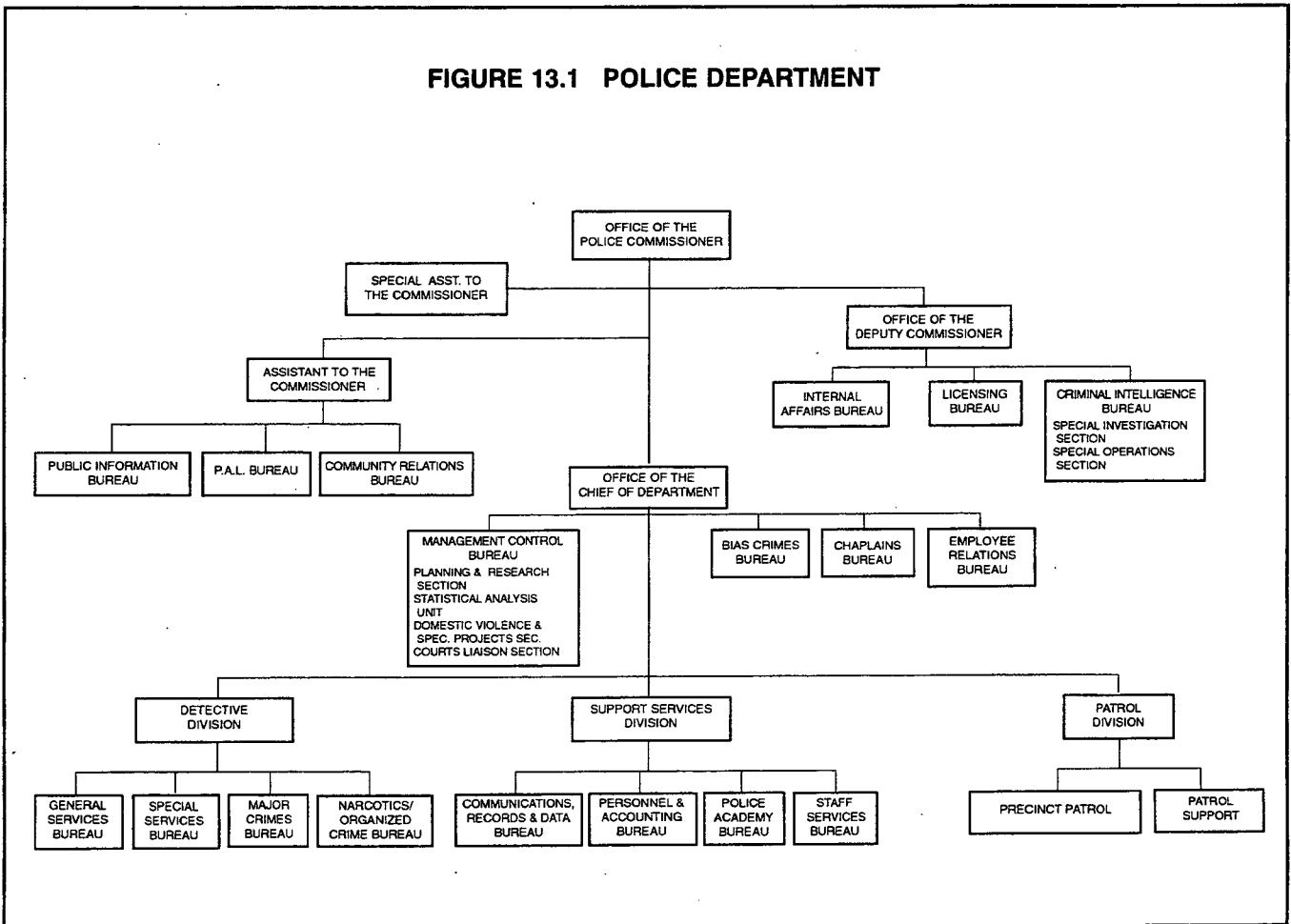
The mission of the Police Department is to "preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest offenders, protect the rights of persons and property and enforce all laws and ordinances applicable in Suffolk County."

The Suffolk County Police Department was created in 1958 under the County Charter adopted in that year. The Police District was organized in 1960. The Department operates in two Divisions: Headquarters Division, which functions on a County-wide basis and is funded by County-wide property taxes; and the Police District Division, which serves the unincorporated areas within the five western towns and some incorporated villages in those towns, and is supported by taxes from only those areas it serves.

Each Division has a separate budget. (See Fig. 13.1 for Department organization).

The Commissioner of Police is appointed by the County Executive with the confirmation of the County Legislature. The Commissioner serves at the pleasure of the County Executive, must be a citizen of the United States and reside in Suffolk County at the time of appointment. All other members of the Department up to the rank of Captain are appointed by the Commissioner from a Civil Service list. Appointees must be United States citizens, literate in the English language, and County residents who have never been convicted of a felony. The Chief Inspector, Chief of Department, Division Chiefs and their assistants and deputies are appointed by the Commissioner from the list of Captains. They retain the rank of Captain and serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner.

FIGURE 13.1 POLICE DEPARTMENT



LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The District Attorney. The District Attorney (DA) is the chief prosecutor for Suffolk County, and is elected by the voters of the County for a four-year term. The main offices of the DA are in Riverhead, Hauppauge and Central Islip. Aided by approximately 136 full-time Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs), the DA represents "The People" in prosecuting felony and misdemeanor criminal cases in the Supreme, County, District, and Town and Village Courts.

Suffolk County Sheriff. The Suffolk County Sheriff operates under provisions of the County Charter and New York State County Law. The Sheriff is elected for a term of four years.

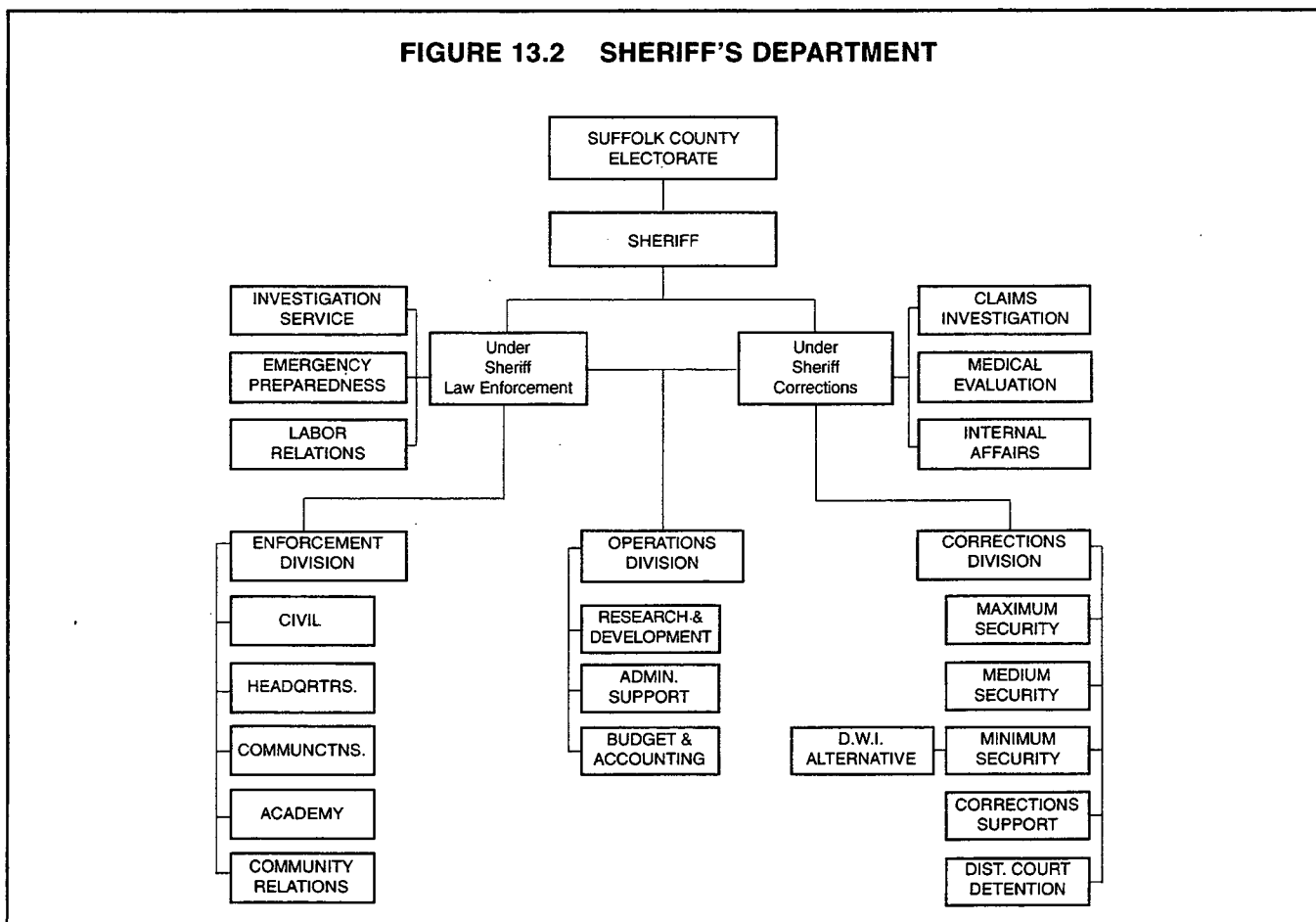
The Sheriff is responsible for detaining persons accused of crimes and awaiting trial and those convicted of misdemeanors and sentenced to terms of less than one year. Additionally, the Sheriff administers a communications center and maintains contact with State and Federal law-enforcement agencies. Under County law, the

Sheriff may act to protect life and property during natural disasters. Under certain conditions, the Sheriff may deputize local peace officers and special deputies.

Deputy Sheriffs transport prisoners to court and to State penal institutions. They are the enforcement officers of all civil court orders within the County and must account for all fines and judgments collected in this function. Deputies also serve Orders of Protection issued by both Civil and Criminal Courts.

As custodian of accused and convicted offenders, the Sheriff's Office operates the County Correctional Facility (the County Jail) in Riverhead, a minimum security facility in Yaphank, and a secure detention facility at County Court. The Riverhead facility is maximum security and has a capacity of 761 inmates. Both sentenced and unsentenced persons are held in these facilities. The County Court facility holds prisoners temporarily just prior to court appearance. See Figure 13.2 for organizational chart of Sheriff's Department.

FIGURE 13.2 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY

Suffolk County Fire Advisory Board. Fire protection in Suffolk County is provided by volunteer firemen under the direction of locally elected fire chiefs in cooperation with the County Director of Fire Safety and the Suffolk County Fire Advisory Board. The Board, which is provided for in the County Charter, may have up to 21 members. They are appointed by the County Legislature for terms of one year and serve without compensation. The Board, funded under the County budget, advises the Director of Fire Safety.

Fire Rescue and Emergency Services. The Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) was created by the County Legislature under provisions of the County Charter, the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 and various sections of New York State Law. It has all the powers of the former departments of Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Additionally, it coordinates the Arson Task Force,

administers the Suffolk County Auxiliary Police Program and contracts with the Vocational Education Extension Board to run the Fire Academy which trains volunteer firemen.

Fire protection is primarily the responsibility of local departments. There are ten fire divisions in the County, corresponding to the town boundaries, 87 fire districts served by 106 volunteer fire departments.

The County's Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services furnishes technical assistance to these volunteer companies and operates and maintains communications systems for the dispatcher of fire and emergency medical services. In addition, FRES determines broad policy for emergency services and for the protection of life and property in Suffolk County when threatened by natural disaster or enemy attack. It determines specific policies for dealing with hazardous materials, and for fire-safety training and rescue coordination. It also inspects all County facilities for violation of fire regulations.



Photo by Hal Fullerton
Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead

RAILROAD WORKERS

Immigrant workers who laid track for the Long Island Rail Road at the turn of the century.

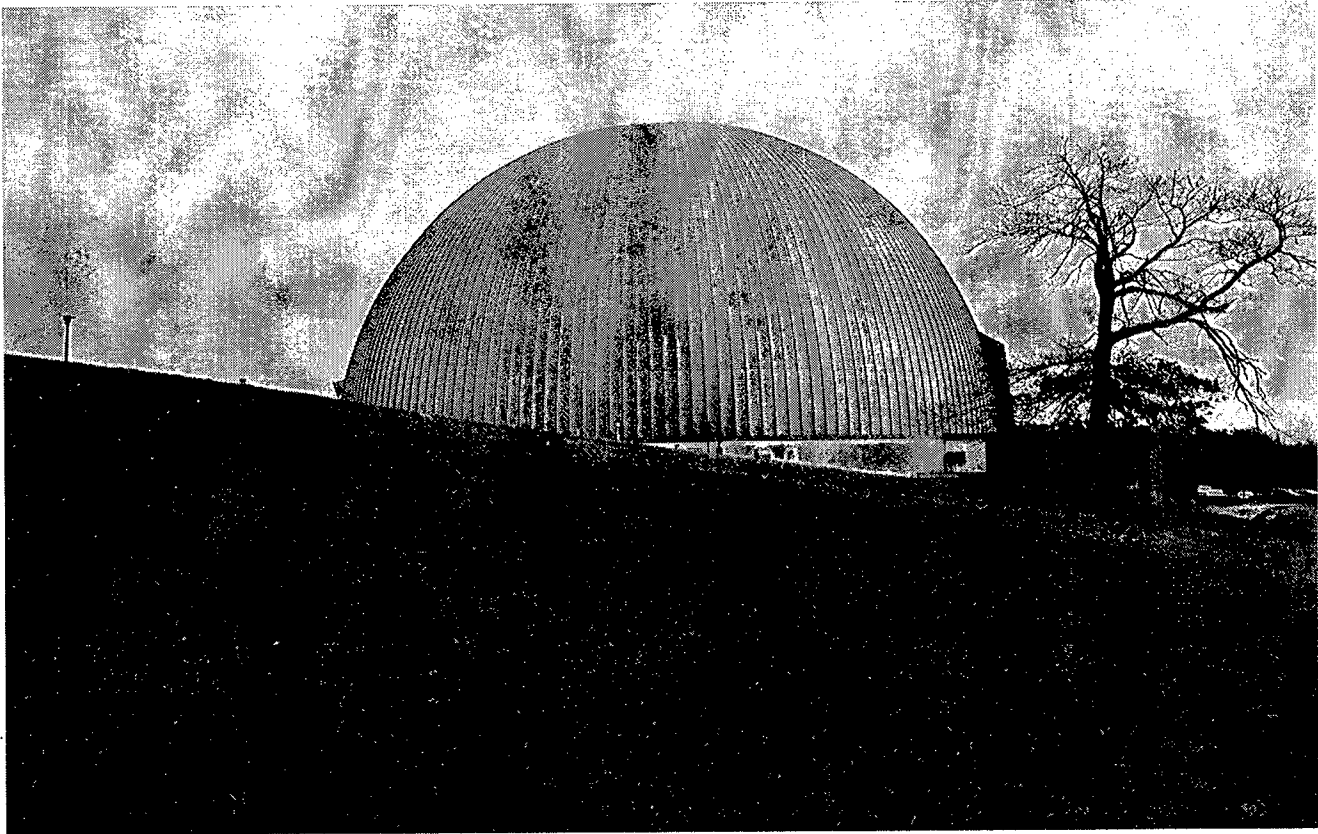


Photo by Valerie Scorsone

HIGH FLUX BEAM REACTOR, BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

BNL was conceived when representatives of 16 institutions met at Columbia University in January 1946 and agreed on the need for a New York area nuclear research laboratory, accessible to scientists between Boston and Washington, with a large land area and near a major institution of higher learning. Camp Upton, a former army base in Yaphank, used in World Wars I and II, was the site chosen.

The Lab is run by a consortium of eastern universities, the Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI). Chartered by New York in July, 1946, the lab opened on the muddy army camp site in 1947. It was soon a world-class laboratory with huge instruments, including the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR), the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS), the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) and, now under construction, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC).

14. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION)

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is headed by a Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the County Executive with the approval of the County Legislature. The Commissioner must be a professional engineer licensed in New York State, as must be the Chief Deputy Commissioner and the County Chief Engineer who are appointed by the Commissioner. The major divisions of the Department and their functions include the following:

Sanitation Division operates 21 sewage-treatment plants in the County. (The independent Sewer Agency, of which the DPW Commissioner is a member, reviews and inspects the design and construction of privately operated sewer projects.)

Buildings Division, headed by the County Architect, is responsible for designing, constructing, repairing and maintaining all County-owned buildings.

Highway Division designs, constructs and maintains the County roads, bridges, docks, marinas, canals, park preserves and beach-erosion projects. The Division also performs traffic studies, does highway markings, and operates traffic lights and signals. The County has cooperative agreements with several towns and villages for maintenance and snow removal.

Highway construction and reconstruction is funded through the County capital budget. Operating funds for the Department of Public Works come from County property and sales taxes. In addition, the County receives construction and maintenance money from the State motor vehicle and gasoline taxes under the Construction and Highways Improvement Program (CHIP). The State returns 25% of the

vehicle license fees collected in the County and 10% of the State-wide motor fuel taxes divided among the State's counties based on mileage ratios. The County also receives aid from the U.S. Department of Transportation for State-approved construction projects.

The Department assists in surveying and engineering projects at the request of other County departments.

Vector Control Division's primary responsibility is the spraying of low-lying and marshy areas for mosquito control.

Aviation Division operates Francis Gabreski Airport (see below).

Transportation Division (1) plans transportation projects for the County; (2) participates in the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), which does regional planning and distribution of Federal grant monies for highway and transit projects; (3) prepares and administers County grant applications for Federal projects; and (4) plans and administers the County bus program, Suffolk County Transit (SCT).

Because of Long Island's length and the spread-out nature of its development, transportation on the Island is complex. There is an extensive network of highways, parkways, several bus services, private and municipally owned airports, numerous private ferry services to Fire Island, Shelter Island and Connecticut, and the State-owned Long Island Rail Road. By far the major movement of people and goods in the County is via the highway system consisting of more than 6,000 miles of Federal, State, County, town and village roads, of which 1,200 lane-miles are County roads, and more than 3,600 are town highways constructed and maintained by more than 30 local highway departments within the County.

The regional planning component of the Transportation Division, under the requirements of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act and the new Federal Transportation Act (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act or ISTEA) looks at alternatives to ground, freight and waterborne transportation, environmental impacts, integration and efficiency of use, rather than simply adding highway capacity to relieve congestion.

New York State Departments of Transportation and Motor Vehicles

The State Department of Transportation maintains its Region #10 offices in Hauppauge. Its responsibility is planning, design, construction, maintenance and traffic control of State highways and the Long Island Expressway in the Nassau-Suffolk region. The State Department of Motor Vehicles, five offices in Suffolk County are located in Greenlawn, Hauppauge, North Amityville, Medford, and Riverhead. Its responsibilities include licensing and registration of drivers, vehicles and boats.

Buses

Suffolk County Transit is not yet a complete system. It anticipates more bus route extensions, more frequent service, better coordination, especially with the rail service, and attracting more ridership. In 1992 SCT carried 3.4 million passengers, less than 2% of all riders in the County.

In 1993 SCT owned 135 buses, all air-conditioned and with wheelchair lifts, acquired with 80% Federal, 10% State and 10% local funding. Most are conventional size; however, some are 24-seat, half-size, and are used for feeder lines to and from railroad stations. The County also has several 10-seat minibuses with electronic lifts and tie-down spaces for wheelchair passengers, providing door-to-door service for handicapped people.

The County maintains oversight for fares, routes and customer relations, but the buses are leased, driven and maintained by the private sector. This provides the County with cost savings and flexibility. The bus service operates Monday through Saturday, with very limited Sunday and holiday summer beach service. SCT serves all hospitals, County health clinics, the courts and the colleges, 36 out of the 42 railroad stations and makes connections with the Orient Point and Port Jefferson ferries to Connecticut. In 1989, 54% of the SCT riders went to and from work, 8% went to and from school, 14% went shopping, with the remaining 14% taking miscellaneous trips. The cost of operating Suffolk County Transit is borne by the passengers (25%), State operating assistance (40%), Federal operating assistance (6%) and the County budget (29%).

In cooperation with the Department of Social Services, the Division has minted tokens which are given to clients for use on the buses. In cooperation with the Suffolk County Community Council, booklets of 50 numbered tickets are printed and are for sale to agencies, groups and organizations which can provide their clients or members with pre-paid bus and transfer tickets. These tickets can be used by Social Services clients, senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

County bus schedules may be obtained by calling Suffolk County Transit Bus Information, (516) 852-5200, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In addition to SCT, Nassau County has five bus lines that serve neighboring areas in Suffolk County. Huntington Town has its own bus system (HART), the village of Patchogue has municipal bus service and Port Jefferson has seasonal buses.

Greyhound Bus Line provides bus service from Huntington and Islip to New York City and connecting points. Adirondack Trailways has three buses daily from Babylon to Westchester and points north. Short Line leaves from Patchogue, Bay Shore or Farmingdale to up-State destinations.

Under the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, Suffolk County has implemented a Para Transit system that provides a flexible route and service schedule with individual pick-up for people unable to use the regular bus system without assistance of another person.

Ferries

Weather permitting, the ferry services from Port Jefferson to Bridgeport, Connecticut, and from Orient Point or Fishers Island to New London, Connecticut, run year-round, carrying foot passengers, cars, and trucks. Each trip takes approximately 1.5 hours. Ferries from Montauk to New London and Block Island run in the summer only. There is a year-round ferry from Greenport to the north of Shelter Island and from North Haven to the south of the Island. Ferries to Fire Island depart from Bay Shore, Sayville and Patchogue. They carry no cars. Information about service to the Fire Island National Seashore is available at (516) 589-8980.

Long Island Rail Road

The LIRR, a subsidiary of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is the largest and busiest commuter train system in the country. Schedule and fare information is available 24 hours a day at (516) 822-5477. Over 660 trains, using approximately 183 miles of track in Suffolk County, carry more than 220,000 riders a day. More than 80% are commuters and most of the service is in the western part of the County. The north shore line to Port Jefferson is electrified from New York City to Huntington, the main line to Greenport is electrified to Ronkonkoma, and the south shore line to Montauk is electrified to Babylon. The connecting line between Hicksville and Babylon and the extensions beyond electrification are served by diesel locomotives. The LIRR has special tracks

that carry about 10% of local freight, but most freight is trucked over the highways. The new Electronic Data Interchange system (EDI) monitors shipping from sender to destination at the Fresh Pond Terminal in Queens. From there freight is transferred because freight trains cannot enter the railway tunnels under the East River into Manhattan.

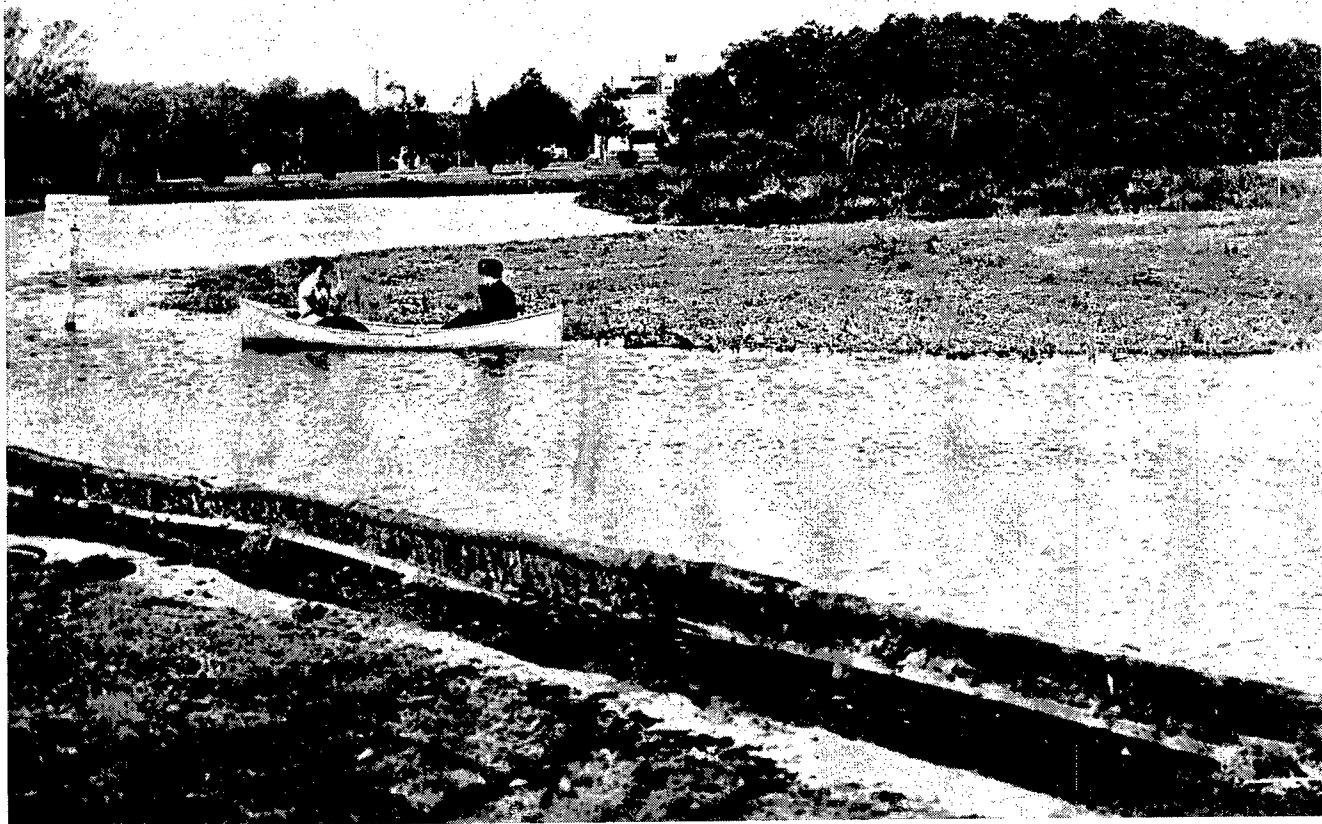
Those wishing to take a bicycle on the train must apply to the LIRR Public Affairs Department. Forms are available at railroad stations. Station maintenance and parking are the responsibility of local government.

Airports

The major airport in Suffolk County is Long Island MacArthur (Islip) Airport, owned and operated by the Town of Islip. It serves American Airlines, Delta Connection, Carnival, Continental Express, NorthWest AirlinK, United Express, and USAir. In 1992 the airport handled 1.2 million passengers, 689 tons of freight and 1,334 tons of mail.

The Francis Gabreski Airport, formerly the Suffolk County Airport at Westhampton and acquired by the County in 1970 from the Air Force, is operated by the Aviation Division of the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. It provides an instrument-landing system and two runways for general, non-commercial aviation. The south end of the 1250-acre field is used by the New York Air National Guard which maintains an air-sea rescue squadron. Flight and glider schools are located there, and 32 buildings are leased for private commercial use.

LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International Airports, run by the New York-New Jersey Port Authority, are located in Queens and Brooklyn respectively and are accessible by highways, bus or subway.



Courtesy of Suffolk County
Division of Historic Services

BOATERS AT "MEADOW CROFT"

"Meadow Croft," located in Suffolk County's Sans Souci Lakes Nature Preserve, Sayville, was built in 1871 as part of a Roosevelt-family compound. The compound consisted of three homes, "Lotus," built by Robert Roosevelt in 1874, "Meadow Croft," built in 1891 by James Ellis Roosevelt, legal advisor and first cousin to Theodore Roosevelt, and "Lilacs," built in 1899 by Robert Roosevelt, Jr. All three estates were part of a water park and were joined by canoeing waterways dredged in the wetlands meadows.

Of these three estates, only "Meadow Croft" remains, a record of Long Island's Gold Coast era, featuring bucolic farm life and resort activities. Dedicated to the Suffolk County Historic Trust in 1982, the estate is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, in Washington DC.

Restoration of "Meadow Croft" and of Smithtown's "Deepwells," is nearing completion. Plans are to open both estates to the public for tours and special events.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Responsibility for protection and management of Suffolk's Sole Source Aquifer rests primarily with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' Division of Environmental Quality. The Division has an integrated management program with elements designed to safeguard the quality of water supplies, to protect the groundwater resource from non-potable elements and contaminants, minimizing the impact of needed residential, commercial and industrial development, and to promote water conservation. The Division of Environmental Quality also identifies the best means of sewage collection, treatment and disposal; ensures that plans for major and minor subdivisions meet all relevant Sanitary Code requirements for water supply, and for sewage treatment and disposal; oversees new construction; issues State-mandated permits for industrial waste, sewage treatment plants and large-volume sewage discharges, and inspects and enforces permit conditions.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is one of Long Island's major environmental problems. The only source of water on the Island is precipitation, which supplies its underground aquifers. The surrounding bodies of salt water cause the fresh-water reservoir to rise up into a dome under the center of the Island. As the water percolates from the surface through the soil, most pollutants are removed by biological action. The safety of bathing beaches and marine resources are jointly the concerns of the Department of Health Services in cooperation with the Suffolk County Water Authority and the Water Pollution Control Unit of the Department of Environmental Control.

WATER SUPPLIERS

By far the largest supplier of water is the Suffolk County Water Authority—a quasi-public agency whose members are appointed by the County Legislature. It has no taxing powers but sells bonds and is therefore responsible to its bond-holders for financial soundness. It serves approximately 150 communities from one end of the County to the other in 3 separate districts (as of the Fall of 1994). Water bills reflect a basic district rate plus an amount for water usage. Wells and pumping stations are spaced about two miles apart and water at all pumps is tested and chlorinated.

In addition to the Suffolk County Water Authority there are some privately owned water companies. Large tracts of sparsely populated land are not served by any supplier and homeowners must rely on their own wells. Water for farm irrigation comes from farmers' wells.

OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS

Three important programs have been in the forefront of Suffolk County's efforts to preserve and acquire open space: Farmland Preservation, the Open Space Program, and the 0.25% Drinking Water Fund. The Farmland Preservation Program through 1993 has been responsible for the protection of more than 5,000 acres of farmland, at a cost of \$24 million. Since its inception, the 0.25% Drinking Water Fund has permitted the County to purchase 7,570 acres of land at a cost of \$119 million. These purchases have been concentrated on the preservation of key waterfront properties, freshwater and salt-water wetlands, a series of stream corridors, and deep recharge areas that extend throughout the mid-portion of Suffolk County's pine barrens.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The major types of solid waste generated in Suffolk County are agricultural (primarily in the five eastern towns), industrial, commercial, and domestic garbage and rubbish; abandoned cars; scavenger wastes (effluent from cesspool clean-outs); and wastes from land-clearing operations. Collection procedures fall into four categories: municipally owned and operated collection systems; commercial carters under municipal contract—a contract going to the lowest bidder; commercial carter under private contract with householders; and individual carting by householders, business establishments or institutions in their own vehicles.

The administration and financing of solid waste management rests with the individual towns, in cooperation with the County's Department of Environmental Control. The enforcement of laws concerning solid waste disposal, however, is the responsibility of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Town of Babylon. Most municipal waste is incinerated at the Town's resource recovery facility (RRF), where 246,000 tons of waste are burned every year, yielding usable energy. The ash residue is used as landfill. The Town has a mandatory recycling program for composting yard wastes.

Town of Brookhaven. The plan for managing the Town's solid waste involves source reduction, materials recycling through the Town's material recycling facility (MRF), household toxics control and the composting of both household and municipal solid waste (MSW). Residuals are shipped to Hempstead for incineration. Brookhaven, in turn, accepts ash residue from Hempstead which is then used as landfill. The Town ships 423,000 tons of solid waste to Hempstead each year.

Town of East Hampton. A recently adopted recycling law will require carters to separate recyclables from other waste. The Town plans to construct its own facility as part of their Solid

Waste Plan. After reduction, re-use and recycling, the Town expects to generate 22,600 tons of waste annually. The Town challenged the Long Island Landfill Closure Law and won the right to keep its landfill facility open pending the outcome of the court decision.

Town of Huntington. Waste is incinerated in the Huntington Resources Recovery Facility (RRF). The RRF can burn 750 tons of solid waste per day, the ash residue being shipped to Pennsylvania. A recycling program includes curbside pickup as well as drop-off sites, 192,000 tons being generated annually after reduction, re-use and recycling.

Town of Islip. The Town has a facility for composting yard waste and a waste-to-energy facility capable of handling 146,000 tons per year (insufficient for projected needs). After reduction, re-use and recycling, the Town annually generates 314,000 tons of waste.

Town of Riverhead. A private composting and recycling facility is planned. At present there is continued landfilling going on, pending the outcome of a challenge to the Long Island Landfill Law (LILL) of 1983. A mandatory recycling program is in place. After reduction, re-use, and recycling, the Town generates 26,000 tons of waste annually.

Town of Shelter Island. Garbage and recyclables are shipped off the Island. The Town generates 2,400 tons of waste per year, after reduction, re-use and recycling.

Town of Smithtown. The Town has an inter-municipal exchange agreement with the Towns of Islip and Huntington, called "Ash for Trash." Annually, 98,000 tons of waste are generated after reduction, re-use, and recycling.

Town of Southampton. The Town is considering a contract with a recycling and composting facility. After reduction, re-use and recycling, approximately 71,000 tons of waste are generated annually. Waste has been landfilled at North Sea, permission to use the landfill site having been extended.

Town of Southold. Landfill is being used in opposition to LILL until the final court decision is made. After reduction, re-use and recycling, approximately 25,000 tons of waste are generated annually.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

An Environmental Bill of Rights for Suffolk County was approved by voter referendum in 1970. This law established a basic policy for the County: to conserve and protect its natural resources, the quality of the environment and natural scenic beauty, its agricultural land, and its historic sites. A council on Environmental Quality was created to help carry out this policy. It consists of nine voting members, one of whom is the Chair of the Parks Committee of the County Legislature; the other eight members are non-salaried and are appointed by the County

Executive with the approval of the County Legislature. The Council reviews the evaluations made by the State Environmental Quality Review Act of all County-initiated projects that may have an impact on the environment. The Council also advises the County Legislature and the County Executive on which County-owned properties to dedicate as County nature preserves or historic trusts, and which properties should be purchased for preservation.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the County Legislature, the Soil and Water Conservation District provides consultation and technical assistance in erosion control to Suffolk County residents, and monitors the effects of irrigation on the underground water supply.



Photo by Hal Fullerton
Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead

PON QUOGUE LIGHTHOUSE, HAMPTON BAYS, 1898

Taken down in 1914, this lighthouse was sometimes a hazard, for sea captains often mistook it for the Montauk Light and lost their bearings.



Courtesy Suffolk County
Division of Historical Services

ROBERT ROOSEVELT, JR., IN FRONT OF "THE LILACS"

Built in 1899, "The Lilacs" was part of a three-home Roosevelt-family compound also including "Lotus" and "Meadow Croft." They were inter-connected by canoeing paths.

16. PARKS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

The Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation was created by Local Law I of 1966 and Article XXVIII of the Suffolk County Charter.

Departmental Mission and Responsibilities.

The Department's mission is to

- develop and maintain all park areas for public use;
- recommend, institute and implement programs to preserve the greenery, wildlife, natural resources and habitats of fish, birds and other animals;
- organize recreational activities and develop recreational facilities and programs;
- provide interpretive tours and instruction by the Parks Department staff;
- provide for the restoration and interpretive tours of historic properties under the jurisdiction of the Department;
- eliminate artificial barriers and provide recreational opportunities for handicapped individuals;
- meet on a regular basis with constituent organizations to further improve recreational opportunities in the County parks;
- establish a security plan to provide a safe environment in the parks for patrons.

The Department is now responsible for over 30,000 acres of parkland, wetlands and pine barrens. The parcels range in size from one acre at the Yaphank Historic site to 2,293 acres at Smith Point County Park. This acreage includes 14 major parklands with numerous facilities, 4 golf courses, 2 marinas, 7 campgrounds, bay and ocean-front beaches, nature trails, preserves, horseback riding trails, boating facilities and bird sanctuaries.

Since the Open Space Acquisition Resolution was approved in 1986, the County has acquired over 4,500 acres of land under this program.

Additionally since 1986, over 3,000 acres of land have been dedicated to the Nature Preserve. Furthermore, approximately 7,000 acres of land have been acquired pursuant to the Drinking Water Protection Program.

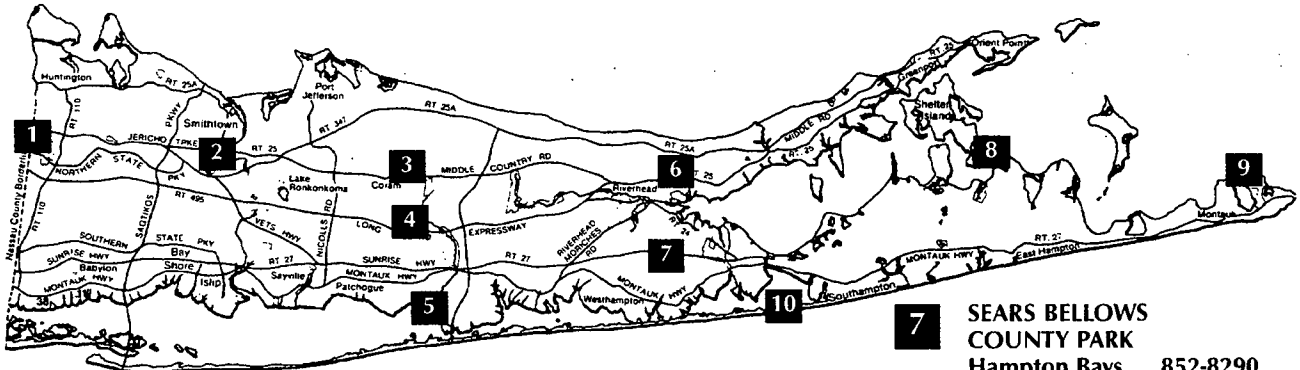
The Department also maintains an Office of Historic Services which now administers ten "Historic Trust" areas and 142 historic buildings. A major function of the division is the administration, restoration and maintenance of historic properties and landmarks owned by Suffolk County.

The Commissioner of the Department is appointed by the County Executive subject to the approval of the County Legislature, and serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation consists of eleven members, one member to be appointed by the County Legislature from each of the ten towns of Suffolk County, upon recommendation of the Supervisor of each town, and one member to be appointed at large by the County Executive, subject to the approval of the County Legislature. The term of each member is five years. The County Executive and the Presiding Officer of the Legislature serve as ex-officio members of the Board with voting rights.

County "Green Key" Card and Reservation System. For admission to any Suffolk County Park a Green Key Card is required. To obtain such a card, a Green Key application must be completed on site at any of the County golf courses, campgrounds, or the Parks Administration Office. Proof of residence and a photo ID must be shown and a nominal fee is charged. Some activities, such as camping, golfing, and row-boating require further fees. In addition to these "active" parks there are parks in the system that are considered "passive" — i.e., no special activities are provided.

General park information notices of upcoming events and reservations for golf and camping can be obtained by phone (see "Important Suffolk County Information Sources").

FIGURE 16.1 COUNTY PARKS MAP

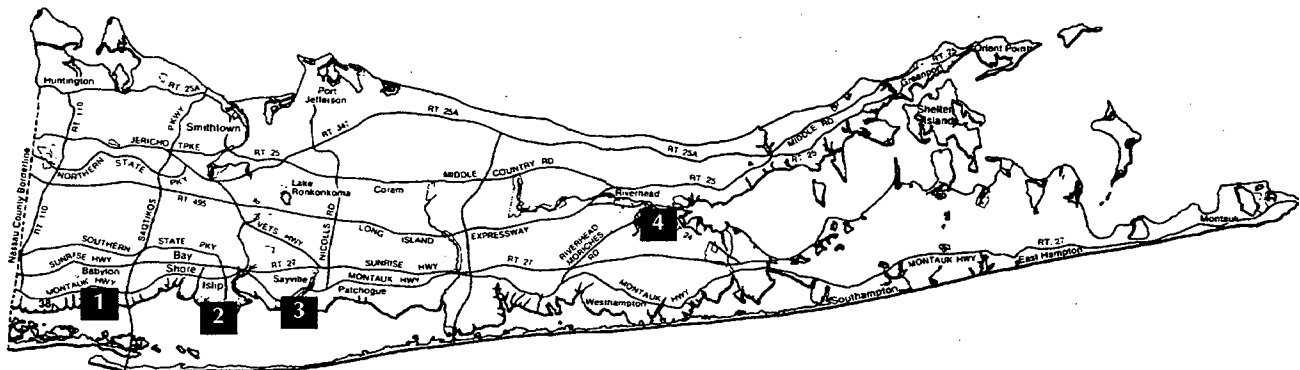


- 1** WEST HILLS COUNTY PARK
Huntington 854-4423
- 2** BLYDENBURGH COUNTY PARK
Smithtown 854-3713
- 3** CATHEDRAL PINES COUNTY PARK
Middle Island 852-5500

- 4** SOUTHAVEN COUNTY PARK
Brookhaven 852-1414
- 5** SMITH POINT COUNTY PARK
Shirley 852-1316
- 6** INDIAN ISLAND COUNTY PARK
Riverhead 852-3232

- 7** SEARS BELLOWS COUNTY PARK
Hampton Bays 852-8290
- 8** CEDAR POINT COUNTY PARK
East Hampton 852-7620
- 9** MONTAUK COUNTY PARK
Montauk 852-7878
Seasonal 852-7879
- 10** SHINNECOCK EAST COUNTY PARK
Southampton
Seasonal 852-8899

FIGURE 16.2 COUNTY GOLF COURSES MAP



- 1** BERGEN POINT COUNTRY CLUB
Bergen Avenue, West Babylon
- 2** TIMBER POINT COUNTRY CLUB
Great River Road, Great River

- 3** WEST SAYVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
Montauk Highway, West Sayville
- 4** INDIAN ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB
County Road 105, Riverhead



SUFFOLK COUNTY FORUM FOR THE ARTS

The Forum for the Arts is a triad composed of the Legislature's Finance Committee and Environment, Energy and Economic Development Committee; the Citizens Advisory Board; and the Program Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs. These three components provide input from representatives of County government, artists and other citizens and arts administrators.

The Finance Committee and the Environment, Energy and Economic Development Committee review and approve or disapprove arts policies and programs. The committees meet jointly with the Citizens Advisory Board and the Program Director, attend arts events in their districts and throughout the County, and recommend funding applications to the full Legislature.

The Citizens Advisory Board is composed of 9 to 15 persons who have either direct experience with an art form, or experience in the fields of education, law, the nonprofit sector, accounting, public relations, business and other related fields. Members come from diverse geographic areas within Suffolk County. Members of the Board serve without compensation and function to suggest, review and recommend arts policies and programs, review arts events in their locales and elsewhere in the County, review funding applications, and work with arts organizations to avoid duplication of programs and to increase communications between the organizations themselves and between the organizations and the County.

The Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Department of Economic Development, is headed by the Program Director. The Program Director is a professional arts administrator with knowledge of the nonprofit sector and of the County, and is responsible for implementing a full-service arts program. The Director's duties include auditing of funded arts programs, both organizationally and esthetically, meeting jointly

and separately with the Legislative Committees and the Citizens Advisory Board, maintaining a statistical and funding bank of information, instigating applications for funding and, along with the Legislative Committees and the Citizens Advisory Board, recommending applications for funding.

SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORIC TRUST

The Suffolk County Historic Trust, an agency of Suffolk County government, maintains historic properties owned by the County. Its governing body is the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (see Chapter 15, Environmental Control).

The CEQ is advised, in turn, by a Historic Trust Subcommittee composed of leading Suffolk County historians and preservationists. The Trust is administered by the Division of Historic Services in the Parks Department.

When a property is dedicated to the Trust by formal action of the Suffolk County Legislature and the County Executive, it is enrolled as a cultural, educational, and tourist resource for the benefit of Suffolk County citizens and visitors. Formal dedication protects the property from inappropriate use or encroachment, facilitating restoration and rehabilitation by the Trust. Any change in the use or appearance of a dedicated property must receive the approval of the Trust and any change in ownership must be approved by the public in a voter referendum.

The need for a Suffolk County Historic Trust was recognized in the 1960s. Enabling legislation was contained in the Suffolk County Environmental Bill of Rights which received overwhelming voter approval in a 1970 referendum. This bill established a modern role for Suffolk county government in environmental management. In part, the bill called for the creation of a "County Historic Trust" to protect County-owned properties "having distinctive historical significance."

The first dedication to the Historic Trust took place in 1981 with the Blydenburgh Park National Register Historic District in Smithtown. The second dedication, in 1982, was "Meadow Croft," the former John E. Roosevelt Estate in Sayville. There are now over 100 historic buildings and hundreds of acres of land dedicated to the Historic Trust. These include Indian archeological sites, natural sites, farmsteads, estates, and the BIG DUCK. Many Trust properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington D.C. Most are located on County parkland, and all are owned by Suffolk County.

Restoration of Trust properties is conducted by Suffolk County in cooperation with New York State, local governments, historical societies, and preservation groups. The Friends for Long Island's Heritage is a citizens support group that also helps raise funds for the Historic Trust restoration program. The St. James General Store and the BIG DUCK gift shop, for example, are operated by the Friends for Long Island's Heritage with all profits going toward the restoration and maintenance of Trust properties. Many Trust properties have community organizations that open historic sites to the public and provide programming and fund-raising for these properties.

SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Suffolk County Historical Society main-

tains a collection of documents, records, and artifacts relating to the founding and history of Suffolk County. The Society's museum in Riverhead is open to the public at no charge.

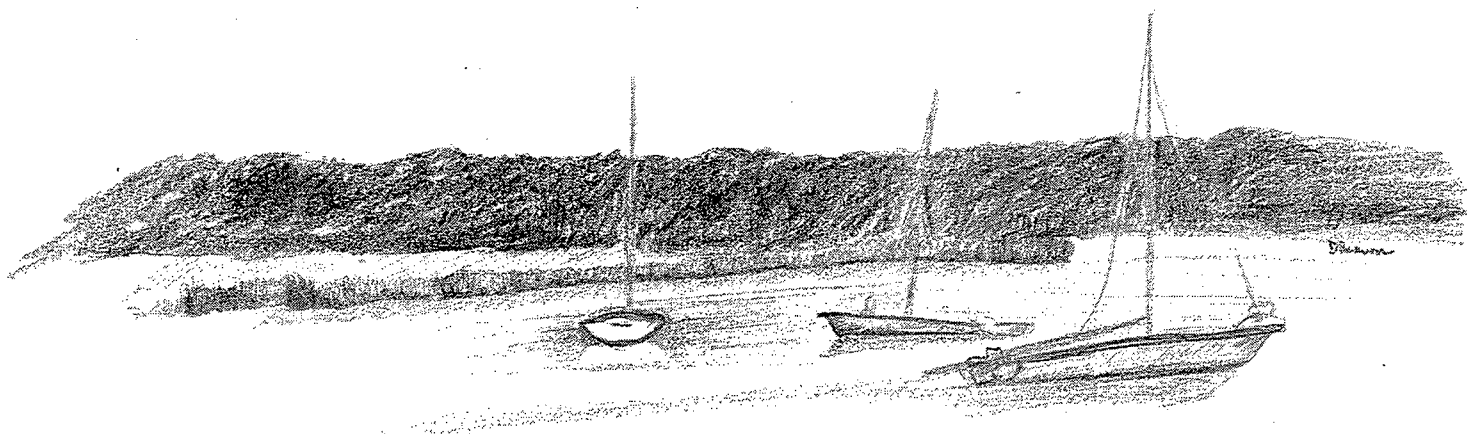
VANDERBILT MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM

The Vanderbilt Museum Commission maintains and operates the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium in Centerport. At his death in 1944, William K. Vanderbilt II bequeathed his mansion and property to Suffolk County. A trust fund was set up under the terms of the will to be administered by an Executive Director and a Board of Directors subject to the policy guidance of the County Legislature.

The mansion contains a hall of fishes, a butterfly room and a natural habitat section; it is open to the public from May 1 to October 31 and is viewed by over 70,000 visitors each year.

The Planetarium, which opened in 1971, is one of the twelve largest in the nation. The 14,000-square-foot building in which it is housed was constructed and equipped with funds from the Vanderbilt Trust. It is open to the public year round and is visited by over 160,000 persons annually.

The income from the trust fund exceeds the cost of operating the Museum and Planetarium. Therefore there is no direct cost to the taxpayer.



17. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

STRUCTURE

The Suffolk County Department of Planning was organized in its present form in 1960 for the purpose of providing guidelines for the environmental, social and economic development of the County. The Planning Department is under the jurisdiction of a 15-member Suffolk County Planning Commission, which is appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Legislature. Its members are non-salaried and serve four-year staggered terms. A salaried professional staff of 30 comprises the Department and provides assistance to the Commission. The Director of the Planning Department is appointed by the County Executive and is confirmed by the Suffolk County Legislature.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Department to do all types of County-wide planning and to assist County officials, agencies and local governments in planning and zoning matters. The commission has no power to pass zoning ordinances, but it does review proposed local zoning classifications, variances, special permits and subdivisions that effect real property lying within 500 feet of the shoreline. The Commission also monitors the boundaries of towns and villages, and the right-of-way boundaries of County and State roads and of County drainage channels.

Proposed local actions concerning property within one mile of a nuclear power plant or airport must also be referred to the Commission.

If the Planning Commission recommends changes or disapproves of a proposed local zoning change and the municipality does not wish to accept the recommendation, the municipality may override the decision by a majority vote plus one of its town or village board and give

reasons for the override. However, a local board cannot override a Planning Commission decision that pertains to property 500 feet from a town or village boundary if the decision was rendered at a public hearing requested by an adjoining municipality. For applications in the pine barrens in Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southampton and East Hampton, municipalities must first send them to the Pine Barrens Review Commission. This Commission makes advisory recommendations to the Suffolk County Planning Commission.

RELATION TO OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Suffolk and Nassau Counties participate in the Long Island Regional Planning Board. In 1970 this Board completed the first Bi-County comprehensive plan (a second regional plan was to be completed in 1994). The plan is an official statement of policy on the future growth and development of Nassau and Suffolk environmental protection, population size, housing, transportation, and commerce, industries, and jobs. Since zoning powers remain with the towns and villages, the Regional Board is not in a position to fully enforce its comprehensive plan. The Bi-County Regional Planning Board makes recommendations on the implementation and updating of the plan and prepares reports on matters of joint interest to both counties — e.g., water quality, coastal zone management, transportation, solid waste, economic development and government operations.

The Suffolk County Planning Commission has prepared an overall map and policy plan for all County open space and recreation. The Department also prepares local plans and reports for the County administration, legislature and other governmental groups.

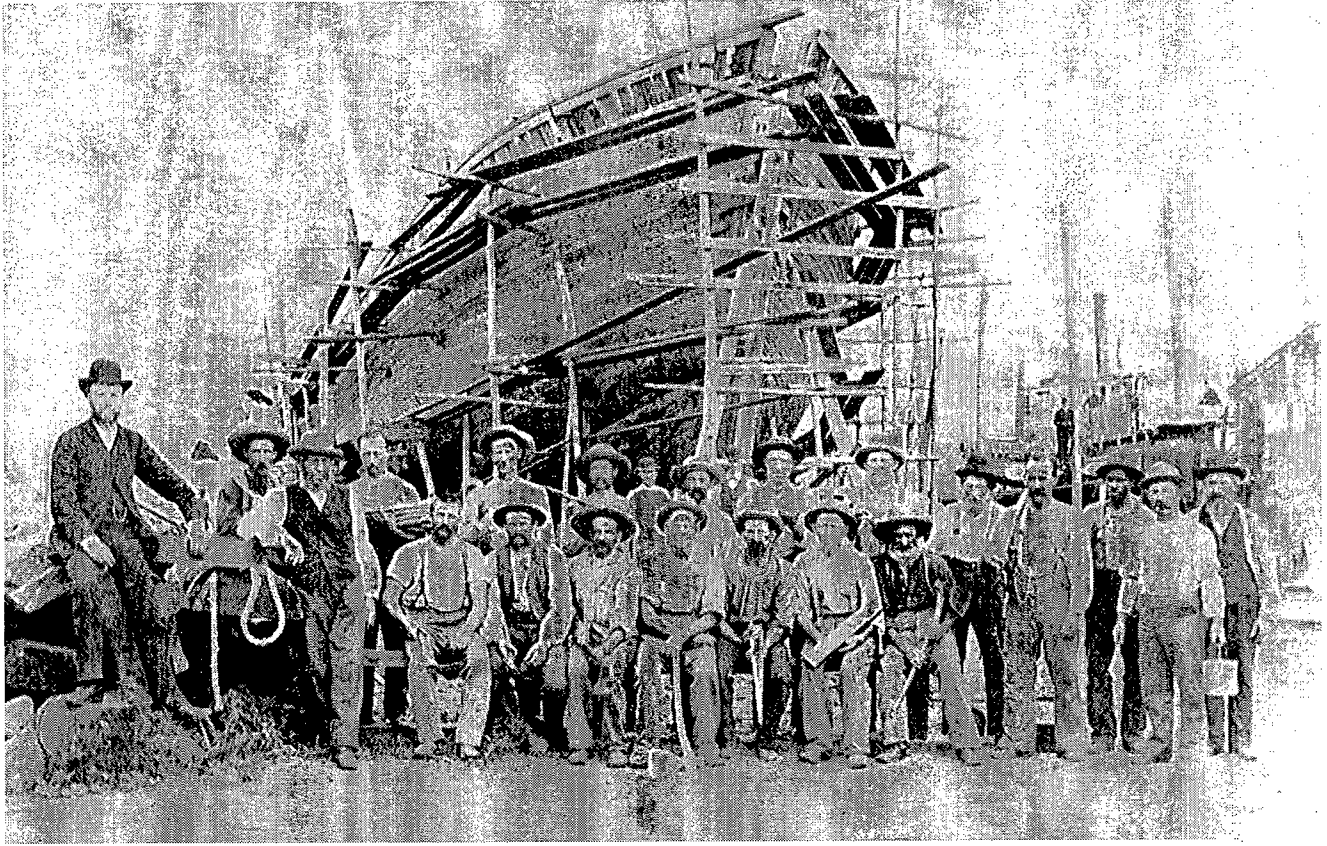


Photo courtesy of Port Jefferson Historical Society

SHIPBUILDING IN PORT JEFFERSON

During the first half of the 19th century, shipbuilding and whale hunting were important industries for many North Shore Suffolk County villages.

THIS IS SUFFOLK COUNTY

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IMPORTANT SUFFOLK COUNTY INFORMATION SOURCES

SOURCE	TELEPHONE # (516)
Social Services, Dept.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	854-9700
Nights, Weekends & Holidays	854-9100
Child Protective Services (abuse, maltreatment reporting) ..	342-3720
Social Security	(800) 772-1213
Transportation, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	852-5200
AMTRAK	(800) 872-4245
Long Island Rail Road	822-5477
MacArthur Airport	467-3210
Public Buses, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	852-5200
SCAT (SC Accessible Transit, for handicapped)	853-3712
Ferries: Port Jefferson and Bridgeport	473-2743
Cross Sound (Orient Point)	323-2743
Fire Island, from Bay Shore	665-3600
from Sayville	589-0810
Shelter Island, South Ferry	749-1200
North Ferry	749-0139



For Reference
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Suffolk County Town Seals