

# KINGS PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Look inside for... News From the Neighborhood...

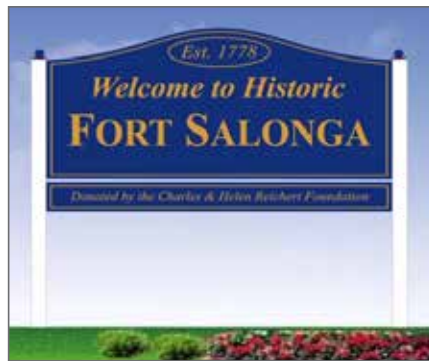
Kings Park Community Association  
 PO Box 413  
 Kings Park, NY 11754

Dated Material

### New Welcome to Historic Fort Salonga Sign on 25A

A new Welcome to Historic Fort Salonga sign is being installed on 25A just west of the Sunken Meadow Parkway overpass. The sign was donated by the Charles & Helen Reichert Foundation. Mr. Reichert, owner of IGA Ft. Salonga Market, believed the community needed a sign that recognizes its Revolutionary War roots. Fort Slongo (Salonga) was a British fort built in 1778 during the Revolutionary War. It was captured by colonial forces in 1781.

Mr. Reichert's family foundation has funded the restoration of several historic structures over the years, including the complete renovation of the Obadiah Smith House, the Vanderbilt Planetarium and the Nissequogue River State Park Visitors Center. Mr. Reichert, whose generosity has touched many lives over the years, said, "It's important to preserve our community's history for future generations."



### Become a member of the Kings Park Community Association today

Fill out the registration form below and mail with \$10 annual membership fee to:

Kings Park Community Association  
 PO Box 413, Kings Park, NY 11754

NAME
E-MAIL
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
PHONE

Or register online at [kingsparkcommunity.org](http://kingsparkcommunity.org)  
 The Kings Park Community Association is not affiliated with the Kings Park Civic Association.



Building a Better Community by Helping Others



Debris collected & removed from Marvin Drive sump

### Marvin Drive Sump Receives Welcomed Cleanup

At the request of a Marvin Drive resident, the Kings Park Community Association removed 11 bags of debris from the sump at the corner of Marvin Drive and 5th Avenue. In addition to discarded soda, beer and liquor bottles, the association removed tires, toys, plastic bags, and TV sets. The association has sent a request to the Town Board asking them to implement a regular cleanup program for every sump in the community.

If you have a neighborhood project that we can help you with, please contact us at [info@kingsparkcommunity.org](mailto:info@kingsparkcommunity.org) or call 631-848-8587.

### Roy Conforte - Respected Civic Leader, Friend & Family Man

Long time community leader Roy Conforte passed away on November 5, 2019 at the age of 78. In 1964, Roy joined the San Remo Civic Association and held various leadership positions for over 50 years. He was the organization's trusted liaison to government officials whenever a local issue needed to be resolved. In recent years, he documented the history of San Remo, which can now be found on the civic association's website.

In 2009, he joined the Nissequogue River State Park Foundation and helped it develop into one of the most successful not-for-profit organizations in the region. As the foundation's treasurer, he kept meticulous oversight of its finances. He also provided constructive guidance and insight for several park improvement projects and foundation events. He later provided similar services for the Kings Park Heritage Museum.

Everyone who knew Roy Corforte respected his intelligence, work ethic, integrity and humor. He was a dear and respected friend to many and a loving husband and father. **He will be missed, but never forgotten!**



Civic leader Roy Conforte on right with former Smithtown Supervisor Pat Vecchio



# News From the Neighborhood

## NRSP Foundation wins settlement with DEC over building in state park

On March 19, 2020, New York State Court of Claims notified the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that it would decide in favor of the Nissequogue River State Park Foundation's lawsuit to stop construction of an office building on state parkland. Although the foundation believed the location selected for this project (adjacent to a fresh water pond) was completely inappropriate, their greatest concern was that the state chose to disobey laws governing the protection of public parks. Ultimately, the court agreed with the foundation and determined this project was in violation of the Public Trust Doctrine - utilizing parkland for alternative uses without legislative approval.



Construction of DEC office building resumes at park with conditions

To encourage a resolution, the foundation first offered to help fund the relocation of this project to Building 1 on the former state hospital grounds. This is the same site the DEC initially selected back in 2012 for its economic benefits. It also would not have required parkland alienation legislation since it's outside the park's boundary. However, the foundation decided not to hinder the project's current progress if State Parks and the DEC agreed to the following terms:

- 1) Obtain parkland alienation legislation for parcel being utilized by DEC as state law requires
- 2) Immediately begin park's Master Plan process based on the Senator Flanagan / Assemblyman Englebright master

plan bill approved by both state houses and vetoed by the Governor in 2019

3) Set aside up to \$10 million per year for an unremitting park cleanup program until all derelict structures are removed or refurbished before someone is seriously injured on the grounds

4) Acquire 80 acres of woodlands contiguous to both Nissequogue River and Sunken Meadow State Parks and, or, the Building 1 parcel in order to uphold the state's no net loss of parkland policy

5) Approve foundation's Friends of the Park application, which would require the state to consult with organization on all proposed park activities

6) Buffer new DEC building and boatyard from the park's toll booth entrance, St. Johnland Road and adjacent pond and river with native plants and trees

The state agreed to all terms requested except they were unable to commit \$10 million per year for the park's cleanup due to the current health and economic crisis. They did, however, agree to address the cleanup and safety issues in the park's master plan. NRSP Foundation President John McQuaid said, "the foundation believes the settlement is fair and constructive and allows us to begin planning the park's future together." The foundation is also thankful to County Legislator Rob Trotta for his full support of their efforts to protect public parkland.

## An Unethical Alliance between KP Civic & Chamber

OPINION

In recent years, the leaders of the Kings Park Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce have created an alliance that seems misguided and motivated by self-interests. Their current leadership apparently made a pact to never publicly oppose one another, even if they disagree on an issue that's at odds with their current mission. This agreement is unethical, irresponsible and a betrayal of the public's trust.

The latest example of this troubling alliance was their mutual support of the state's decision to construct an office building on state parkland in violation of state law. They also chose to undermine efforts by a local philanthropist to cleanup a toxic

dump in Kings Park's industrial area, which would have helped protect the community's drinking water.



Every Kings Park resident should send a clear message to both the Kings Park Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce that this type of behavior will not be tolerated. Working together is important and can be constructive when the needs and values of the community are placed first. However, when they join together to further their own personal interests or are used to undermine community benefits, this alliance becomes detrimental and destructive.

## Kudos to KP Community for Honoring Grads!

The thought of Kings Park High School graduates not being recognized this year did not sit well with local residents Dawn Tiritter Bent and brother Michael Ziccardi, owners of Signarama in Huntington Station. They wanted to do something to help commemorate a special moment in each graduate's life, which had suddenly been sidetracked by the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, they decided to donate 300 lawn signs to honor the graduates. The signs read "Class of 2020 Kings Park - #KPPRIDE - #KPSENIOR2020".

Not surprisingly, their generosity did not stop there. When Kings Park resident and high school aide Carol Passantino contacted Ms. Bent to order additional signs with each student's yearbook picture included, she and her brother Michael agreed to print them at cost. Ms. Passantino then



Ms. Passantino then quickly organized a fundraiser to help pay for the new signs, raising over \$3,000 in less than 24 hours from the Kings Park Community. Lawn signs were also made to honor all middle and elementary school graduates. "Kudos to Kings Park", said Ms. Bent. "There are a special bunch of people in this community", she commented.

The signs were showcased at the schools for each student to view and photograph. Many of the signs are already displayed on front lawns throughout the community. The signs with the students pictures will be handed out to each graduate when they pick up their cap and gown. Ms. Passantino, whose efforts were applauded by many, said "We could not let our student's accomplishments go unrecognized." Ms. Bent added, "The smiles we got were so worth the effort."



Donated lawn signs for Kings Park graduates

## Toxic Steck-Philbin Landfill acquired by Pioneer Paving Owner

After initially derailing efforts to cleanup and cap the toxic Steck-Philbin Landfill on Old Northport Road in Kings Park, the Suffolk County Landbank has decided to sell the landfill to Michael Cox of Pioneer Paving. Mr. Cox had previously won a bid through the Landbank in 2018 to purchase an adjacent 5 acre site, which was formerly used as an illegal tire dump. He and his sons, under Cox Bros, LLC, are proposing to reuse the property for construction equipment and machinery storage, a truck repair garage, warehousing and office space.



Entrance to toxic Steck-Philbin landfill on Old Northport Rd.

The original winning bidders of the landfill proposed using the site for benign purposes acceptable to the adjacent residential community. They also argued that part of the adjoining 5 acre parcel should be used for the landfill's drainage basin due to the size and depth of the debris field. This would have also helped protect the community's drinking water by draining rainwater away from the landfill's

harmful toxins. Even though Smithtown's Environmental Director supported this viewpoint, the Landbank still rejected their offer and agreed to sell the site to Mr. Cox without stipulating the rainwater be drained off site.

Mr. Cox offered to purchase the landfill only after the Landbank refused to rebid both parcels together, counter to what some argued was in the best economic and environmental interests of taxpayers. Now the community and

our elected officials need to watch Mr. Cox's efforts closely. Proper drainage of the landfill site is critically important to safeguarding the area's drinking water. However, Mr. Cox illegally drains the surface water from his current Kings Park property (an ash landfill) onto a public road, instead of containing it on site which the law requires. He also apparently has no approved/updated site plan for his Townline/Old Northport Road property, which is in violation of town code.