SAG HARBOR NY 11963-0013

MARY ALICE Kellogg

"It got to the point where I told my friends I had rented my house for the month of August"

> - Our Town PAGE 7

LOVE LETTERS



ason Robards and Elaine Stritch revive their roles in the A.R. Gurney play "Love Letters" at the Bay Street Theatre in a special onenight-only performance Tuesday. Showtime is 8:00 p.m.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FORUM

With elementary school opening postponed until September 8, the school administration will host an open forum on Monday night at Pierson High School's auditorium to answer questions and offer final information about school opening. The forum begins at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to last until 8:00

Banjo Concert

What's the sound of dozens of banjoes strumming at the same time? You can find out tonight, Thursday, when the Sag Harbor Chamber of Commerce welcomes the Long Island Banjo Society to Marine Park at 8 p.m. for the final summer concert.

On the Screen

SAG HARBOR THEATRE Phone #725-0010 When the Cat's Away - 7 p.m. The Van - 9 p.m. Fri. - Thurs. Dreamer Awakens (a play) Sunday at 5 p.m.

> SOUTHAMPTON CINEMAS Phone #287-2749 G.I. Jane Conspiracy Theory **Event Horizon Money Talks**

East Hampton Cinema Phone #324-0448 The Full Monty Copland Leave it to Beaver Air Force One Picture Perfect Contact A Smile Like Yours

WEEKEND WEATHER



FRIDAY August 22

Mostly cloudy, Rain will end late foggy, temps in in day, temps in high 60s low 70s

SATURDAY

SUNDAY August 24



Sun and fairweather clouds, high 70s

Mostly sunny with temps in low 80s

Neighbors Irate Over EPA's Rowe Plan

by Bryan Boyhan

Rowe industries plant argue it's a case of too little too late. For twelve years, they say, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has been trying to of toxic chemicals that flows through the groundwater beneath their homes, but the agency's efforts have not addressed the entire problem and, indeed, are cavalier.

"You don't have to live with cancer, you don't have to live with people dying," shouted John Distefano at a handful of EPA agents on Monday night, chastising them for the time it has taken to begin the cleanup. The delay, and an alleged lack of information offered by the agency and the

consultants hired to effect the clean-The neighbors around the former up, has also caused the reconvening of the Rowe Industries Information Committee, a task force of local governmental officials, environmentalists and citizens who hammered away at develop a plan to get rid of the plume the agency three years ago when it appeared that the original remediation plan might actually do more harm to the environment than good. But despite the tumult that ensued at Monday's meeting, EPA Project Manager Pamela Tames said yesterday that the agency plans to initiate the current plan beginning this September.

The EPA was in Sag Harbor to reveal the latest incarnation of the plan to rid the neighborhood, and the grounds around the plant that once manufactured tiny electric engines, of chemidoesn't address all the pollution

cal solvent and degreasers that have polluted the ground for more than twenty-five years. According to history and eyewitness testimony, the company, which was eventually purchased by Nabisco, Inc., would regularly dump the solvents into drywells and drains both in the building and outside. When the building burned in the 1960s, according to neighbor Anthony Fabiano who worked at the plant, 55-gallon drums of the solvents that had been stored behind the building, were plowed into the rubble and have no evidence that the mass burial of toxic waste occurred — and some neighbors claim they simply haven't looked for it — the agency assigned to oversee the restoration of the land and groundwater said on Monday that they are initiating a more aggressive cleanup measure than initially proposed three years ago, and the focus of that new effort will be the drum storage area and the parking lot behind Harbor Industries and a handful of other local businesses. The amount of contaminated soil on the site, believed to be the prime source of the plume, has risen from 230 cubic yards to 1700 cubic yards.

The added technology introduces a

While the EPA has claimed they soil vapor extraction system, a series of wells that will be inserted into the ground that will suck the contamination in the form of vapor out of the earth, through a charcoal filter, releasing presumably clean air. In addition, the consultant hired by Nabisco, who is paying the lion's share of the cleanup costs, Leggette, Brashears and Graham (LBG) will scrape off the top four feet of the most contaminated soil and treat it on-site before it is shipped off to the building that now houses Sag a disposal area, likely Niagara Falls. The treatment will also add an airsparging system which forces air into the ground below the water table which volatizes the contaminants in the groundwater, neutralizing them, and

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Late For School

Parents have mixed reaction to delay in school opening

by Dave Udoff The Sag Harbor School Board's decision to push back the first day of classes at the elementary school from Wednesday, September 3 to the following Monday, September 8 due to the slow progress of the building's

tion within the community. And at least one 10-year-old student, Ailish Bateman, has raised ques-

renovations has drawn a mixed reac-

tions about her vacation schedule. "What if they don't take a week off at Christmas?" she wondered.

Although it was an innocent inquiry, Ailish's question was a reflection of the possibility that the building could fall hopelessly behind in its construction efforts and may not even be ready on the 8th, which concerns Ailish's mother, Roisin Bateman.

Bateman, who has one other child in the elementary school, is not bothered by the board's decision but believes that any more delays could cause problems for the children. "They might start really late and take away vacation time throughout the year when kids really need that," she said.

Other parents are having problems already in trying to re-arrange schedules and make sure their children are supervised. Rob Chase is not quite sure what alternate plans he will make for his two elementary school kids while his wife takes their two-year-old to day care. "I still have to find a babvsitter for the kids," he said. "My wife's going to school, and I'm at work, so it's going to be tough."

Chasesaid heplans to visit the school to look at the renovations and will attend the public forum which will discuss the opening of school this Monday.

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OK Bridge Speed

Fire in the Sky

The Sag Harbor Fire Department's carnival attracted hundreds this past week, and

featured fireworks over Haven's Beach on Friday night.

State agrees to Iower proposed design speed

by Bryan Boyhan

Residents of Sag Harbor and North Haven who have been concerned about the proposed speed on the new bridge to be built between their communities received some good news this week. According to State Assemblyman Fred Thielethe state has found a way to reduce the proposed design speed without seeking a special waiver from the federal government, a decision that will assuage local residents' fears that traffic crossing the bridge would actually windup traveling faster than it currently does.

Thiele said Monday that meetings with Craig Seracusa, the recently appointed regional head of the state Department of Transportation have revealed that the state can design a

bridge to accommodate traffic traveling 37 mph. The state, which has regularly clocked traffic crossing the bridge at much higher speeds, argued that it needed to adhere to federal regulations that dictate a bridge be designed to the mean traffic speed: 44

Local residents, however, argued that designing a bridge that accommodates faster traffic would only encourage traffic to move yet faster. A bi-village bridge task force argued that the design speed should remain at the current 35 mph, and while the design would be non-standard, it would encourage drivers to travel slower.

The state, which has relented on several design questions, ultimately relented on the design speed question, but claimed it needed to receive a waiver from the feds, who are footing most of the bill for the project.

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Attorney Patricia Weiss adds her name to a list of 841 others on petition on the wall of the Espresso market last week showing support for the business to continue allowing customers to eat inside the store

by Bryan Boyhan

urrounded by about fifty of his client's supporters, attorney John Bennett fought two battles on be half of Espresso, the little Italian market in Sag Harbor, on Tuesday night. While he ultimately argued that the store which sells sandwiches, salads and other comestibles should also be allowed to let people eat them on the premises, he first had to convince the Sag Harbor Zoning Board of Appeals that theirs was the proper place to fight the battle. As of this writing it is still unclear if he was successful on either count.

Prior to and following the passage of a village law last month that prohibits retail food stores from allowing on-premise consumption except in the village's business districts, Espresso market had received some four citations from the village's building inspector claiming they were in violation for allowing customers to eat at tables inside the store. The owners of Espresso, located in a residential neighborhood at the corner of Henry and Division streets, have argued that they are simply carrying on a tradition that had been started long before they bought the business in 1993. In fact, Mr. Bennett argued on Tuesday, that prior to the new law, there was no provision in the village code prohibiting retail food stores from allowing their customers to eat on-premise, virtually making it a permitted accessory use. And while it is fine if the village wants to prohibit the use in businesses now and into the future, said Bennett, they must allow Espresso to continue with its tables and chairs as a pre-existing, non-conforming use.

But ZBA attorney Richard Fernan, standing in for regular village attorney Anthony Tohill since Tohill recused himself due to the fact he had previously represented Espresso, argued that the village's zoning board of appeals was not the forum for the hearing. Noting that the ZBA is an appellate board charged with addressing appeals on building or planning applications that have been denied, Fernan told Bennett that he in fact had not been denied an application and suggested the attorney make an application with the village's building inspector.

"What for," countered Bennett, "it's our position that we don't need to apply for anything. What would I make an application for?"

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911 Due in November

by Bryan Boyhan

Today, the worst thing to do in an emergency if you live in Sag Harbor or Noyac is to call 911, according to an agent for Suffolk County. Your call could disappear to an operator in Chicago. Or Georgia. That will change, though, by the middle of November when a county-wide emergency service goes on line.

While pockets of communities on the East End have benefited from a 911 emergency telephone service for some years — even an enhanced, or E-911, in some cases — Noyac, Sag Harbor and the rest of Southampton Town has not. Until now.

Representatives from Suffolk County and the East End Mayors and Supervisors Association spoke before the Noyac Civic Council last Tuesday night, and promised the community that a full E-911 service would be provided county-wide within the next three months.

For years, townships had individually tried to initiate 911 service with mixed results. It became a nightmare, said John Raynor of the Southold Town police department, a coordinator for the East End Mayors and Supervisors Association. When the towns first pursued it with NYNEX, the telephone company only offered limited access to particular telephone exchanges. In Southampton's case, said Mr. Raynor,

it would have excluded one of the local exchanges—either 283 or 287 because of the way the system was unable to differentiate between the two exchanges.

Now, said Mr. Raynor, the newly designed system put together by Suffolk County will be able to differentiate and direct emergency calls to appropriate agencies almost instantly.

What separates the 911 service from the E-911 service is that the enhanced version provides operators with a read out of the caller's street address and the emergency service agencies — police, fire department and ambulance - that service the address.

In emergency situations, noted Mr. Raynor, people are likely to get nervous. The displayed address will enable operators to identify specifically where the caller is calling from, whether he or she is able to tell them. Also, said Matthew Jones, E-911 coordinator for the Suffolk County Police Department, in case of a break-in or threatening situation, the caller won't even have to speak.

"As long as they dial that last 'one,' we've got them," said Mr. Raynor.

The enhanced service will even help in cases where emergency agencies overlap, as is the case in Noyac. While most Noyac residents are in the Sag Harbor fire and ambulance districts. they are not in the jurisdiction of the

village's police department. To confuse matters even more, the local fire department and ambulance squad are both dispatched by East Hampton Village. In times like this, the caller would be put on a patched call with dispatchers from both Southampton Town and East Hampton Village, one for police protection, the other for fire or ambulance needs. Some Noyac residents also are served by Southampton or Bridgehampton fire and ambulance services and the new system would be able to differentiate the districts.

Today residents need to know two or three different 7-digit phone numbers to contact emergency services. By the time this new system is installed, they will only need to know 911. Mr. Jones was quick to add that, despite the fact that the new system is called E-911, callers should not dial the E.

The biggest problem to overcome now is getting the addresses correct in the system, matching them with phone numbers. Mr. Jones said there are 113 different fire districts in the county, and they are making a concerted effort to make sure whichever side of the road residents live on, the computer system will identify the correct emergency service agency. This is a particular problem, noted resident Marilyn Downes, in Noyac where the post of-

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