- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethically Challenged

Listed on the Southampton Village Board agenda for the April 25 meeting is a resolution terminating Southampton Vil-lage's ethics attorney. This will likely pass as a 4-1 vote, with the mayor opposing this ap-palling motion. Based upon my experience

Inter pass as der volte, volte im mayor opposing this ap-paling monon. Belling works of the second second dealing with the village trust-estates as the second second second second second second second second belling the second second second second belling to second second second second prievance process and their re-fusal to even consider my sug-gestions as a former partner at a big four accounting firm. The trustees, who have now on multiple occasions violated optimation laws, and who placed ag order on village employ-les, are now firing one of the most prestigious and well-respected ethics attorneys on Long Island. Village residents should be asking the most basic ques-tion: Why? It is my understanding that the ethics attorney was hired

asking the most basic ques-tion: Why? It is my understanding that the ethics attorney was hired under then-Mayor Michael Irving. Since, Mayor Jesse Warren has praised his prede-cessor's choice for the village as a "bipartisan pick." This same counsel wrote Chapter 7 of Village Law (eth-ics) and has been doing vil-lage ethics training for five years within the village. He also served by presidential ap-pointment as a member of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Local Govern-ment Ethics and was a pro-

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Progress Over Politics

I wanted to thank and ac-knowledge the mayor for his courage and his composure when it comes to the way he conducts the Southampton Vil-lage Board meetings

conducts the Southampton Vil-lage Board meetings. Earlier this month, the mayor gave a great presentation on the budget, which kept proper-ty taxes low, and provided a de-tailed explanation on the newly created arts and culture overlay district, which will help save the movie theater. Bravo. Unfortunately, at that same meeting, and in contrast to the progress made by the mayor, the four trustees passed a res-olution that would curtail may-oral authority and transfer it

olution that would curtail may-oral authority and transfer it to themselves. The resolution would prohibit the mayor from assigning work to the head of the Highway Department, the senior planner or even a build-ing inspector.

ing inspector. This resolution not only hurts This resolution not only hurts the village residents like myself, whom the mayor has helped, but it is also against the law. As was discussed at the meet-ing, this resolution violates New York State Laws on Villag-es 4-400 and 4-412, but also New York State Home Rule Law. This resolution was improperly done without a local law and without a mardiarov referen-

This resolution vas inpiopent) done without a local law and without a mandatory referen-dum. Only the voters can de-cide this — not the trustees. I commend the mayor for not getting into a heated debate, but instead pointing out the facts and then moving on to conduct the public's business. Your persistence and compo-sure are appreciated, and your ability to carry on in the face of the bullying and adversi-ty helps make you a first-rate mayor and sets a good exam-ple for those who are watching. Franklin Horowitz-Southampton Village Southampton Village

Own Your Failure

Mark Parash and Andrew Pila-ro were right about Mayor Jesse Warren. They sounded that alarm bell back in 2019 and

never stopped ringing it. Why has it taken Roy Stevenson and Gina Arrest athis long to hear if? When I read Trustee Steven-son's whining complaint in The Southampton Press last week ("Serious Misstep," Let-ters, April 20), I couldn't help remembering one of his more idiotic quotes from his previ-ous campaier." Tesse has done Idiotic quotes from his previ-ous campaign: "lesse has done more for this village than any other mayor!" I hope you're ready to eat those words, Roy, because the village taxpayers will be stuck paying to undo it for years to come. You knew bock than, or why change your back then, so why change your

Rady equals to come. You knew back then, so why change your tune now? Roy, as much as you are correct in taking the mayor to task for his latest stunt, you and Gina also need to explain to the residents of Southampton Yullage why you let the chaos progress as far as it has. How are you not part of the prob-email of the prob-lem of the prob-ent of the prob-tion of the prob-ent of the prob-ent of the prob-set of the prob-set of the prob-set of the prob-tion of the prob-tion of the prob-met of the prob-bene of the prob-set of the prob-bene of the prob-tem of the pr

Poppy Elliso

Community's Backbone

I would like to thank the Cir I would use to mank me U.Wu Service Employees Association for their diligence and pro-fessionalism in negotiating a new contract with the village ("Southampton Village, CSEA Reach Agreement on New Five-Year Deal," Zreast.com, April 19). Specifically, Village CSEA President Mauricio Espinoza and Labor Relations Specialist and negotiated in good faith monglout the process. The CSEA union represents the Department of Public Works employees, as well as many of the village administra-tive and clerical employees. Together, we were able to compromise and come to an agreement hat is beneficial to both the long-term gools of the village of south the source of the specific and the most of the source the village day in and day out. Laront thank our CSEA employees who help improve hevillage day in and day out. Jeannot thank our CSEA employees who help improve hevillage day in and day out. Jeannot thank our CSEA employees who help improve hevillage day in and day out. Jeannot thank our CSEA employees who help improve hevillage day in and day out. Jeannot thank our CSEA end hand work, the seakes are beautiful, our roads and streets are in good order, our buildings are well-main-tained, village-conved vehicles. Tam proud to be able to work with threse verellent individu.

with these excellent individu-als, who are the backbone of the community and who often work behind the scenes to get the job done. Their friend-Work behind the schels to get the job done. Their friend-ly character and work ethic is what makes so much of our village special. Everything they do for us is greatly appreciated. However, I would also like to take a moment to address the comments made by a village public official that appeared in last week's edition of The Southampton Press. I agree with CSEA President Mauricio Espinoza in taking issue with with CSEA President Mauricio Espinoza in taking issue with these comments. The concerns that were brought up during a public meeting were inappro-priate and do not reflect my own opinion on the negotia-tions of this contract, as their negotiations were done in good faith and with high integrity. Thank you again to the CSEA

faith and with high integrity. Thank you again to the CSEA and its members. Southamp-ton Village would not work without you. I am very happy we could accomplish this fair and beneficial contract for all. Jesse Warnen Jesse Warnen

Mayo Village of Southam

Not a Burden

I am responding to Larry Penny's column in the April 20 edition, regarding turkey hunting in the East End towns ("The Great, or Not So Great, Turkey Hunt in New York State Is About To Commence," Na-ture Naturally. Sports & Out-doors, 27east.com, April 18]. I am not in favor of hunt-ing on Long Island, period. We are far too urbanized to

permit this type of sport in out midst. We are not a rural

permit this type of sport in out midst. We are not a rural place anymore, and we need to face that reality. Why is this activity even necessary? The amount of wildlife here is not a burden. Disease and automobile col-lisions more then take care of any concern for population control issues.

any concern for population control issues. Conflicts between hunt-ers and hikers is on the in-crease in most of our wildlife areas. Firearms should not be permitted anywhere near residential neighborhoods — which is now everywhere. If we need to rely on cull killing, it should be done by licensed experts, not amateurs. What kind of human being gets pleasure from killing an-imals? What special interest groups are promoting these Neanderthal activities here in our local towns and in Alba-

veanderthal activities here in our local towns and in Alba-ny? How many of these ani-mals are actually being taken for meat, rather then for plea-sure and trophies? Think about it.

Peter Wils Bridgehampt

The Jewel

Noyac is the jewel of South-ampton, known for its beau-tiful beaches, ponds, sunsets, hiking trails — and amazing volunteers.

volunteers. Members of the Noyac Civic Council participated in the Great East Cleanup on April 22. The following volunteers must be recognized for their outstanding efforts in clean-ing up sections of Noyac Road, Trout Pond and Circle Beach: Lack Mather. Viola Goodale. Ing up sections of rowar to and Trout Pond and Circle Beach: Jack Mather, Viola Goodale, Jackie Tulo, Quinn Cole, Kath-erine Gruanga, Julie Totero, Elfie Winkle, Michelle Moc-sotar, Diane Hewett, Chuck Maurantonio, Jackie Mau-rantonio, Maggie Jaeger, Gus Hayes, Janet Grossman, Juli-anna Meyer, Brandon Guarga, Alan Nava, Erik Moyer, Rory O'Shea, Kai Baorseshes, John Arendt, Maryanne Arendt, Marguerite Basti, John Kir-rane, Carolyn Kirrane, Brid-get Kirrane and Sharon Bakes. Please forgive me if 1 left out any volunteer's name.

any volunieer's name. This year brought new find-ings: White Claw seems to be the beverage of choice, based on the number of empty canss that the volunteers picked up, beating out Bud and Coors. One volunteer found a Mega Million Lotto ticket. We wish her luck. One group picked up several beach toys among the usual food wrannines dis-

up several beach toys among the usual food wrappings dis-carded along the road. The Noyae Civic Coun-cil wants to thank Fred, the Highway Department truck driver, who assisted us with picking up the 60 bags of trash we collected. We are forever thankful that so many Noyae residents take pride in our hamlet. Elea Loreto

Elena Loreto President Noyac Civic Council

Enabling Cohorts

Ah, yes, the Department of Environmental Conservation. Otherwise known as the De-partment of Enabling Cohorts. Your editorial, "What's Going On?" (April 20), declares, "It's time to ask the question di-rectly: What is going on with the State Department of Envi-ronmental Conservation and its steadfast refusal to get out of bed with sand mines on the South Fork?"

South Fork?" Thanks for asking, but your question comes about 35 years too late, and after the fact(s) for those of us who lived for years under the putrid odors and miasmic clouds of the Rambo sand-pit. We posed your question and many more. We provid-ed evidence again and again of illegal and environmentally disastrous activities. We were in contact with the malinger-ing dissemblers of the DEC time and again. When asphalt waste from highway construction was grimding away and shooting a Jume of fine sediment on ev-eryone in the neighborhood's bousses, gardens and pools, 24/7, the DEC stroked their thins and did nothing. When the sickening, decaying veg-tation and feecal doors arose from compositing for days on end. the DEC swuld come Thanks for asking, but you

etation and fecal odors arose from composting for days on end, the DEC would come a day or two after they were called and then maintain that they didn't smell it. They re-quired that their noses be on site at the moment of occur-rence, and despite their de-

PAW PRINT " JOE, THANKS FOR RIGHTING THE SHIP PASSING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN, HELPING THE POST COVID ECONOMY, IMPROVING HEALTH CARE, COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE C

C C NOW, COULD YOU JUST RETIRE?)

BY KARL GROSSMAN Mya K. van Rossum, the leading figure nation-Amendment, a constitutional amendment declaring "that each person shall have a right to clean air and water and a healthful environment," came to Southampton to give a keynote address at a three-day "Docs Equinox" celebra-tion dedicated to the week of Earth Day. Hamptons Doc Fest present-ed "Docs Equinox" in partner-ship with the Southampton Arts Center, where the event was held.

Arts Center, where un excan was held. The Delaware Riverkeeper for three decades, van Rossum is the author of the 2017 book "The Green Amendment Se-curing Our Right to a Healthy Environment." She coined and defined the term Green Amendment as a constitution-"emanate.

Amenament as a constitution al guarantee. She founded the nation al group Green Amendmen for the Generations, which working for inclusion of the amendment in every state

for the Generations, which is is working for inclusion of the amendment in every state constitution in the United States and becoming part of the U.S. Constitution, too. Attending "Docs Equinox" was the prime sponsor in the New York State Assembly of the State's Green Amendment, for-mer Assemblyman Steve Eng-lebright of Setauket. The amendment, which was on the state's election ballot in 2021 and passed with 70 per-cent of the vote, took effect at the start of last year. Engle-right sold difference" by pro-yiding the legal basis, constitu-tionally, in New York for a clean and healthy environment. After van Rossum spoke, Jac-

After van Rossum spoke, Jac-qui Lofaro, founder and execu-tive director of Hamptons Doc Fest, declared: "I hope some of your passion rubs off on all of ur."

The keynote address of van cossum was indeed passion-

ate and inspiring. At the "Docs Equinox" cel-ebration, the documentary "The Grab" was screened. In it, a team of investigative journal-

of

Rossum

Green Passue ist, led by Nathan Halverson of The Center for Investigative Reporting, based in California, exposes manipulations now underway by several nations, including China and Saudi Arabia, to obtain and control water resources, land owner-ship and food production all over the world. It was directed and produced over a six-year period by Gabriela Cowperth-vaite and released last year period by Gabriela Cowperth-wate and released last year bolobe, himself an Oscar-win-ning filmmaker from East Hampton, declared that it was "the most important film I've vers sen in my life, and every-body film." Its stunning and shocking, a mist-see documentary. Affect of making the film of the importance of what is creased. How years in a signing

via Zoöm. Iney detailed the difficulties of making the film and the importance of what ir reveals. Halverson said what is going on is 'still solvable' to stop, but if that does not happen it will be 'disastrous for the human species." Cowperthwaite said it was critical to 'get the word out' about what is happening and for people to act. She de-scribed investigative report-ing as 'completedy crucial to ol do-oreal address, van bosum keine battle in Penn-sylvania against the 'high-y polluting' process of fracking that the vision of a Green Amendment was born. An atomey as well as an en-vironmental champion, she said a long-overlooked Envi-nommental Rights Amendment added in 1971 to the Pennsyl-vania State Constitution pro-tecting people's rights to "pure water, clean air and a healthy environment" was how the vi-sion of the Green Amendment was born. It was used in Penn-sylvania by the Delaware Rivwas born. It was used in Penn-sylvania by the Delaware Riv-erkeeper Network to bring a

lawsuit against fracking. Fracking, or hydraulic frac-turing, is a process in which 600 chemicals, many of them

cancer-causing, are injected into the earth under high pres-

cancer-causing, are injected into the earth under high pres-sure, along with huge amounts of water, to break up shale for-mations and release gas and oil. The result has been wide-spread and serious contami-tude of the series of the security of the series of the series of the security of the security of the series of the security of the series of the security of the security of the series of the security of the security of the series of the security of the security of the series of the security o

director of the Southampton Arts Center. The theme of this "Docs Equinox," said Lofaro, was "All In for the Aquifer." She noted that on Long Island, "we stand above our water. It's all (the potable water] we've got. We have

to preserve it." Also participating in "Docs Equinox," with tables in an area that Lofaro called "Water Central," were five area envi-ronmental groups: Group for the East End, The Nature Conservancy, Peconic Baykeeper, Peconic Estuary Partnership and the Surfrider Foundation.

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GROUND LEVEL There To Defend

BY MARILEE FOSTER

pril had few sho

<text><text><text><text> fow cover, the rolls of hyron fabric we drape over the top of the hoops, pulling gently taut to form long, simple cold

rames. Its seemingly endless sides are anchored and sealed by shoveling soil along it. The tunnels, though cost-ly of time, manpower and sometimes patience, have a multitude of benefits. They provide literal shelter — a roof to hold in the heat at night, a shield from wind, and a baf-fle against deluge-style rains such as that.

fle against deluge-style rains such as that. Very early on, the tunnels save an untold number of har-vests. They are one of the few things that give a vegetable farmer peace of mind. When the weather gets weird, which it always does, the tunnels are there to defend. And this is why wou see so many of them

It always tobes, the funities are there to defend. And this is why you see so many of them. To the north, in another part of the field, the remnants of last year's Brussels sprouts have been destroyed, but sadly not before overwinter-ing fiea beetles are the small black beetles that spring, fiea-like, out from harm's way. It doesn't matter that they know a finger's shadow as a threat — flea beetles come in waves, and they are far too numerous to destroy by pinching. They eat so many things that avoiding them is a strat-

egy of near-impossible rota-tion. Here, as I walk the long rows, checking the tunnels for damage and righting the pummeled arches, I see flea beetles, hundreds of them, are crawing up the sides. Investi-gating in vain — they cannot gain access. The tunnels keep creating predators at bay. I watch for a while, wanting to be sure that the bugs hadn't developed a skill like grav-ing or burrowing. They must smell what is beneath and be driven slightly mad by the in-congruous sheer fabric that stops them.

tong totus sheet hand that stops them. I mostly feel bad, uncanny dread when I see something modern and mammade stand in the way of a natural and an-cient process: ducklings fall-ing in a drain, a turtle unable to climb a curb, a bird hitting a glass window. But the bug barrier gives me satisfaction. And I detect cruelly in my heart when I hope they will find nowhere to leave their eggs and, this time around, starve.



Marilee Foster farms and writes about it, and other things, in Sagaponack.



EASTERN EDITION A15

SUFFOLK CLOSEUP A Green Passion

BY KARL GROSSMAN