

## Editorial

### A wake-up call

The residents of Patchogue's South End have given notice to village officials that they want action now on problems that have plagued their neighborhood for almost the past decade.

If ever there was a wake-up call for Patchogue's village officials, this is it. But it is also a call to arms for the residents of the village as well.

Victor Yannacone, a Patchogue attorney, called for a redrafting of the village's code book, with more stringent local laws, at the board's last meeting. This is something that has been blatantly apparent to almost everyone for years now, but was not acted upon because of a combined lack of manpower, money, know-how and legal ability to do so.

But the offer by Yannacone, a nationally prominent lawyer, to assist in writing these new codes and helping to defend them at no cost is a major hurdle that has been cleared on the way to a better Patchogue.

This is only one obstacle of many that must be cleared, though. Just as no single house or person has caused the situation in the South End, no one should view Yannacone's assistance to the village as the sole solution. We need a number of things to make any significant progress:

- **A more vocal board** - Over the last few years, the village board has written numerous letters to state, county and town officials protesting cuts or other perceived slights. However, rarely (if ever) have the mayor or the trustees personally gone before the county legislature or town board to personally state Patchogue's case. This must happen more often in the future.
  - **Help from other local attorneys** - Any attorney who lives or owns a practice in Patchogue should follow Yannacone's lead in offering pro bono advice to the village. Their special talents and skills can help preserve the vested interest they have here.
  - **More aggressive use of the Code Enforcement Bureau** - Patchogue must vigorously push for the village patrols to receive either peace officer or constabulary status so that they can enforce a broader spectrum of laws. While this needs the county's okay, how could they say no after forcing police cuts on us that affect the village?
  - **More resident participation** - No one can legitimately complain about the village if they are not active in attending village board meetings. If the village is not made aware of problems, they won't be solved.
- Yannacone's diatribe against the village board is perhaps the most important speech to be made in Patchogue in more than a decade. It can be a clarion call to rally the troops for battle, but it must be heeded by all village residents, officials and business people to be effective.

THIS WASN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS GOING TO WAGE AN AGGRESSIVE ELECTION SEASON CAMPAIGN!



PRESIDENT BUSH!

## Letters

### Why not a centralized fire department?

Open letter to the Hagerman Fire District Board of Commissioners Gentlemen:

As a member of the Bellport Fire Department for well over 50 years I am sympathetic to all of our local departments' needs. However, I would like to offer an alternative to your proposed building.

Every Memorial Day I am distressed by the duplication of equipment and spending by our three departments. Would it be possible to consider a centralized department? It seems to me it merits some consideration as an outstanding tax reducer.

Peter Paige  
Bellport

### Thanks for help with parade

The Patchogue Lions Club would like to publicly thank the Patchogue Knights of Columbus, the Patchogue Elks Club, the Patchogue Kiwanis Club, the Patchogue Rotary Club, Swezey's Department Stores and

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# Advance

Your Hometown Newspaper

*It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive*

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Yannacone asks Patch.

# Rewrite vil. code

By Barbara LaMonica

"You can't enforce an unenforceable code..." Those were attorney Victor Yannacone, Jr.'s opening words before a standing room only audience to Patchogue Village officials as he rocked last week's village board meeting by pressuring trustees to "take to heart" residents' complaints, and amend existing, "unenforceable" ordinances.

The end result of the marathon meeting will see Patchogue Village Attorney Ernest Maler, Jr., and Yannacone putting their heads together with village officials to examine existing laws to "see what will work, and what won't work." Patchogue Village Mayor Franklin Leavandosky acknowledged Yannacone's suggestions,

saying that because trustees are always willing to hear recommendations for improvements, the board will "take heed to what you've said."

Yannacone's remarks were echoed by a number of residents who voiced assorted complaints ranging from a stolen barbecue, to the shape of duplex structures along South Ocean Avenue. "What's going on in Patchogue is sinful," Yannacone continued. "You've made people ask if they should sell their houses...we have to take the position that there is no social justification for slum lords..."

About 45 minutes into his presentation, Yannacone made an offer to the board which paralleled one he made last year when he offered Maler assistance in re-writing parts of the village

code. Maler agreed to Yannacone's new offer following the mayor's call for a 10-minute recess, which Yannacone used to brief residents on what they must do to "take this community back, one block at a time." The issues at hand, which the attorney told residents they should prioritize include health, fire and safety over aesthetic issues.

During the recess, village resident Steven Keegan asked Yannacone about procedures for "suing the village for not enforcing its own codes," an action which Yannacone and residents concurred would be "a waste of village and taxpayers' money." Keegan, who appears regularly at village board meetings, appealed to the board on its intentions to amend the code by asking several times on Monday, "What are you going to do, and when are you going to do it?"

Among the issues the village board will immediately be addressing, Leavandosky said, is "reactivating the Residential and Professional Office (RPO)" committee, which is spearheaded by Trustee Paul Pontieri, Jr. This action will call for the committee to extend designated areas of the village for residential and professional office use in a residential structure.

The meetings between attorneys Maler and Yannacone are expected to be the first in a series of steps towards modifying village codes, some of which may be rewritten in order to be made "enforceable."

The next Patchogue Village Board meeting will be held August 10 at 8 p.m., in village hall, Baker Street.

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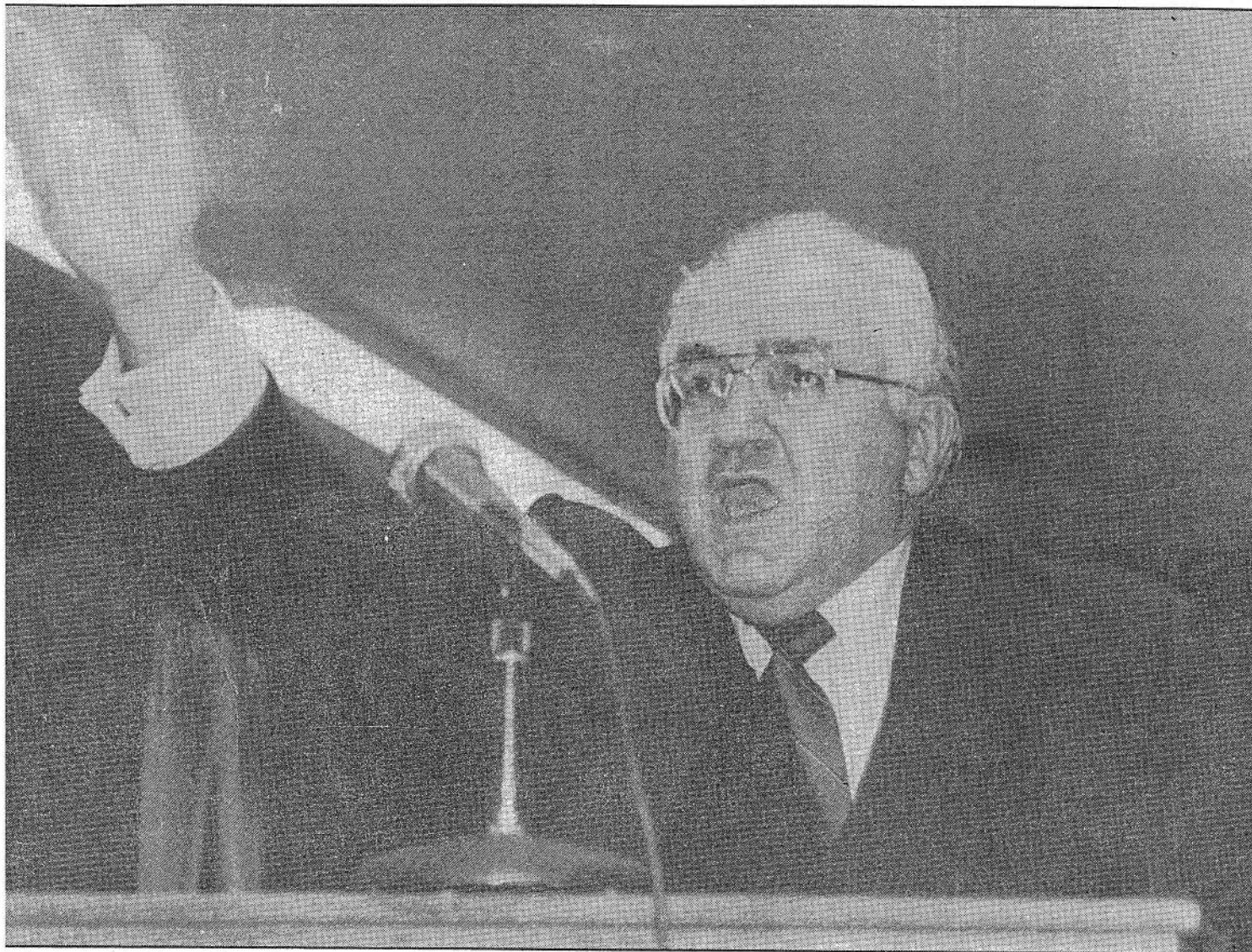
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Attorney Victor Yannacone, Jr. addresses the Patchogue Village Board Monday evening, demanding that village ordinances be tightened

Advance/Kevin Molloy

# Come on, do something!

## in Molloy

Patchogue attorney Victor Yannacone, a nationally prominent attorney who has successfully argued before the Supreme Court, will be sitting with Village Attorney Ernest Molloy and contacting residents in order to draft new, tougher laws for the village of Patchogue. Yannacone and the board of trustees will work with Yannacone after the village lawyer dominated Monday's village board meeting for an hour, harshly chastising

## Yannacone demands Patchogue Village tighten local laws for better enforcement; agrees to help village re-write new codes

the Patchogue officials for failure to revamp village codes that he claimed have been proven to be "unenforceable." The meeting, marked by complaints from an increasingly frustrated and vocal group of village residents living south of Division Street, grew so unruly at one point that the mayor adjourned

the meeting for 10 minutes to regain order. Yannacone huddled with residents in the hallway during that time, mapping out a plan of action to battle rooming houses, absentee landlords and what he perceived to be administrative inertia on the part of the board. "In all my 28 years here, I've never

seen a board meeting like that," Village Clerk Rose Marie Berger commented after the meeting.

Suggestions made by Yannacone included fighting rooming house violations with health codes instead of zoning codes, having the village acquire the Lace Mill property, install a board of fire marshalls, and abolishing the village's planning board and zoning board of appeals.

But while the mayor and members of the board said they would work with Yannacone on forming new or

*please turn to page*





...ly may, being with a bullet, it was  
ny no means within Long Island's mainstream.

My friends accused me of selling out on my rock and roll roots. The trouble was I couldn't find those roots. Tap music did nothing for me, and the computer assisted techno-dance music that they were telling us was rock left me cold. As I said then, "I find little in common with a song saying 'Let's rock till we drop,' since at my age neither my body or my boss would orgive me."

Then a few funny things happened. Somebody cut out the "Hillbilly Heroes" column and sent it to the morning man at New York's Country Station, WYNY (103.5) Jim Kerr. Kerr, a former rock and roller himself, read it on the air one morning and all of a sudden I met a whole army of closet country fans.

They, like myself, had found that the lyrics of these songs dealt with the trials, tribulations and heartaches

Perhaps the best example of country's surging popularity is Garth Brooks. Tall, pudgy and in his mid-30s he has sold over eight million copies of his three albums. His ability to blend hard core country with just a few rock riffs and a touch of a twangy steel guitar has made believers out of the most jaded New Yorkers. While lesser country artists routinely sell out at the Westbury Music Fair, Brooks sold out the Meadowlands in 17 minutes!

Brooks himself is a juggernaut. This guy has appeared on the cover of four magazines including *Time* and *Fortune* within three months. Earlier this year, he took to number one a song written by our favorite Long Islander... Billy Joel.

So, saddle up and try some country. Leave your preconceptions at the door and enjoy adult music that won't put you to sleep... don't say I didn't tell you!

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## Letters to the editor

Continued

You know, like Central Islip, Brentwood, Patchogue." "By the way, where do you live?" I hesitated and answered "Patchogue."

Being a homeowner and a resident of South Ocean Avenue, when can we be proud to say we live in Patchogue?

Ronald Boughey  
Patchogue

### Standup and do something

We need our neighbors! If you don't want undesirable people moving in next door, stand up and do something. If you are unhappy with your property value going down, stand up and do something. If you are concerned that your child may run into a drug deal going down or even shot if it goes wrong, well, Patchogue residents, you better stand up and do something!

This scenario is not so far away, it's right here right now. Our village is headed down the same road as Amityville, Wyandanch, Bay Shore and any other place you may think of.

I am talking about drugs, cars speeding up and down our streets, prostitution, the fear in our children's faces when they see a person ying in the gutter, drooling from the mouth, clothes tattered and torn.

How can you live like this? It may not be on your block, today. But if you sit home and do nothing, nothing will be done to stop the spread of filth and decay that is

devouring our community.

You can help, go to a village board meeting. Stand there for an hour, if that's o.k., but if there is more you can offer, your help is desperately needed to make our village a place we are proud to call home.

Barbara L. Martin  
Patchogue

### Schedule budget re-vote later

An open letter to Mr. Joseph Zaffuto:

I want to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the South Country School Board. I hope your tenure is a happy one.

I wish to express my displeasure with the Budget Revote. To schedule a vote when many district voters are out of town is wrong. The vote on May 20, 1992 was a clear mandate to the board as to what the voters wanted. The budget was defeated, and so were the items to be reconsidered.

I understand that a petition of 1000 signatures requested this vote. However, the vote to disapprove was 1800, that is 800 more than the petition. The vote should not be held. Let the taxpayers have a voice. The school board works for the taxpayers, and their opinion must be heard. My taxes are going up even when the budget is defeated. Someone has got to have the guts to make difficult decisions. The taxpayers must be heard, and the public mandate followed. This is like asking the fox if he's enjoying living in the hen house. The situation in this district is getting worse, not better.

I said it once and I'll say it again: the board and Dr. Laria have their own agenda. Listen to the taxpayers, not the special interest groups. Public notice and input is what our country was founded on - no taxation without representation! Our representation is letting the taxpayers down.

There should have been a well advertised notice to the public. A meeting after the vote is too late. You're going to let the horse out and than ask to capture him with spaghetti. Stop spending money the people don't have!

I'm mad as hell, and the public mandate must be followed and heard! This board must listen to the people, not put cotton in its ears.

A Dissatisfied Taxpayer  
Walter C. Lundy, Jr.  
Bellport

### Praises Powell proposal

Open letter to Brookhaven Town Supervisor and Town Council:

The Town Board-proposed L-1 amendment authored by John Powell shows intelligence, courage and concern! "To error is human, to correct is divine!"

We wish "all" town board members led by Supervisor John LaMura to show concern for all Brookhaven residents by immediately passing the L-1 industrial amendment (Zoning 85-308 L-1.) Not to immediately correct such a recognized error shows "negligence and irresponsibility!"

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# WHEN REPUBLICANS PLAY IT SAFE

JASON CO  
 EPSTEIN

## Letters

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. All letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous. All submissions will be considered

### Thanks Patchogue good samaritan

I wish to thank publicly through your great newspaper a gentleman who came to my assistance on Sunday night at about 11:30 p.m., when I got lost in Patchogue making a wrong turn trying to reach Montauk Highway. It was impossible to see the street names due to the heavy rain.

A lot of cars passed me by after I rolled down my window and cried for help asking for directions. No one stopped, except this gentleman, whose name is Al Alberigo, of Patchogue.

He stopped and asked me if he could help me. By that time I was hysterical. This fine person told me to follow him, and escorted me to Montauk Highway all the way to the corner of William Floyd Parkway.

God bless you, Al, I will never forget your kindness and concern.

Sonia Homanock  
 Mastic Beach

### We are all to blame

I have lived most of my entire life on Lee Avenue in South Patchogue. It is a truly wonderful street made so due to the fact that it is inhabited by lifelong local residents of

outstanding character. We may not always agree with each other but we respect each person's right to disagree. I would like to believe that there are other similar streets in South Patchogue but after attending last Monday's village meeting I am sure that there are not too many Lee Avenues.

If you walk this area you become aware immediately of the problems discussed at the village meeting. There most definitely is a problem that needs attention.

Focusing blame for the deterioration of a once beautiful quiet and environmentally sound area, bordered by the Great South Bay, is retrogressive. Simply stated we are all to blame. I myself and my neighbors should have found the time to get involved. The elected officials should have tried to find out what we in this area really wanted and needed. Then they should have led the way to change. It is, after all, government by the people, for the people.

Change is necessary but it can only come about through the orderly process of government. I would ask the people of South Patchogue to learn from my mistake and find the time to be seen and heard. I would ask the elected representatives to do the will of the people.

In the spirit of last Monday's meeting I too would like to volunteer whatever small talents I may have to help create a positive atmosphere in South Patchogue.

Ray Trypuc, Sr.  
 Patchogue

### Hats off to Yannacone

Hats off to Victor Yannacone, Jr. It's about time someone has come forward to challenge the almost non-existent members of our village board.

Coming from Port Jefferson, a town which 20 years ago experienced the same problems and today is a beautiful village, with only one storefront vacant, I can only contrast these two towns. What do they know that we don't? Understanding that these hard economic times are everywhere on Long Island, how come they are doing so well?

Our local government wants us to believe that Patchogue is not unique in these hard times.

Recently, while inquiring about a job on the phone, the interviewer was telling me how the company places its stores. He said, "We put these stores in depressed areas,

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**nice**  
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nk, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive editorial comments on the news

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