



A Coast Guard Christmas

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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'Twas the night before Christmas and all through each state, Loyal Coast Guard families were beginning to celebrate.

Just then from the White House came an urgent call, a crisis had arisen that would affect one and all.

In fact, the State Department was totally frantic; Santa Claus had just landed in the Atlantic!

It was foggy as ever; Rudolph had made a blunder. Santa, sleigh and eight reindeer were all going under!

Although stockings were hung from the chimney with care, Poor Santa could only gurgle, "I'll never get there."

When what to his wondering eye should appear, a fleet of Coast Guard cutters with their rescue gear!

The officers and crew were lively and quick, a lucky break for our good ole Saint Nick!

With a nod from the captain, they went right to work, Rescuing all, including Rudolph, who felt like a jerk.

Poor Santa was soggy, but as anyone could see, He was grateful indeed to the USCG!

And we heard him exclaim as they towed him from sight, "If it weren't for my age and weight, I'd enlist tonight!"

Author Unknown



LEGISLATOR TOM MURATORE ATTENDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY-LOCAL COMMUNITY CHURCH'S NEW PARKING LOT AN "ANSWERED PRAYER"

Legislator Tom Muratore (4th LD) attended the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the installation of the long awaited parking lot at Centereach Bible Church.

After nearly thirty years of waiting for the funds, Pastor Scott Kraniak claims the completion of this project was clearly an answer to prayer. "We prayed for the money, and God provided in an unexpected way," stated Pastor Kraniak. "A very dear husband and wife who resided at a nursing home we ministered to passed away and left us the exact funding we needed for the parking lot."

Legislator Tom Muratore remarked, "This elderly couple had never stepped foot in Centereach Bible Church, or even knew of their need for a new parking lot. Yet, their amazing generosity has blessed the members of this congregation. The newly paved lot just adds to the beauty of the church and this great community we live in. I was honored to be a part of the church's celebration."

Also in attendance was Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, as well as several members of the congregation. A special honor was given to Bob Pincus, member since 1963, who cut the parking lot's ribbon.

For community related questions or concerns within the 4th legislative district, please contact Legislator Tom Muratore at 631-854-9292 or tom.muratore.suffolk-county.gov.



Centereach Bible Church gets their paved parking lot after nearly 30 years of waiting. From left: Legislator Tom Muratore, Councilman Kathy Walsh, Pastor Scott Kraniak with longtime congregant Bob Pincus.



by KARL GROSSMAN

SUFFOLK CLOSEUP

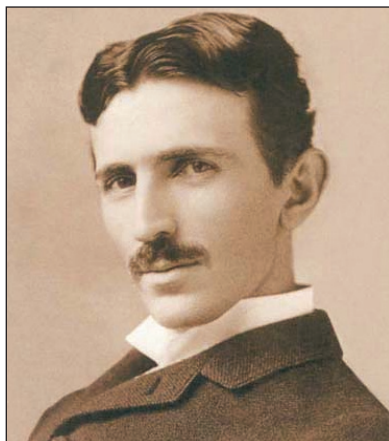
It's the most preservation-worthy but not-yet-saved historic site in Suffolk County.

In Shoreham, it is the location of the only remaining laboratory of the great inventor Nikola Tesla. Adjacent to the laboratory, an elegant red brick building designed by Tesla's friend, famed architect Stanford White, is the base of what had been the giant tower with which Tesla hoped to transmit electric power through the air to anywhere in the world.

Tesla was himself a giant—the man behind the establishment of alternating current, the system through which the world is electrified. He invented much in how radio signals are transmitted. (Guglielmo Marconi is credited with originating radio, but the U.S. Supreme Court, after Tesla's death, determined that Marconi's work was based on 17 Tesla patents.) Tesla also invented fluorescent lighting, remote control, the bladeless turbine, and on and on.

The son of Serbian parents, Tesla arrived in the United States in 1884 with four cents in his pocket. But, notes Jane Alcorn of Shoreham, president of the Tesla Science Center, he was a "visionary" with ideas that would revolutionize the world.

It was in Shoreham in the early years of the 20th Century that Tesla did some of his major work—notably working on the wireless transmission of power.



Nikola Tesla

Next to the laboratory, with its ornate windows and graceful grillwork, is the place where Tesla built his 187-foot high tower. When put in use by Tesla, bolts of electricity shooting into the sky from the tower were visible from across the Long Island Sound in Connecticut. The tower, sadly, was torn down in 1917. But granite slabs in an octagonal shape, steel posts and a large mound all remain, marking its location. Below is said to be—radiating like spokes on a wheel—copper-lined tunnels, each high enough for a person to walk through, and a shaft connecting 120 feet to the aquifer below.

Tesla was the pioneer in exploring and utilizing the phenomenon of electrical resonance—through which radio signals are transmitted. He envisioned that not only radio signals but electricity could be sent far dis-

tances by linking into the resonance of the earth.

In a TV program on Tesla's laboratory that I wrote and host, which aired recently on Long Island's WVVH-TV and is now up on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H-UBvdPtag, Dr. Christopher Wesselborg of the American Physical Society explains that if one thinks of "the earth as a giant cello," Tesla sought to "pluck the strings." The "resonating theory makes sense," and indeed research based on Tesla's work is now being pursued by scientists, says physicist Wesselborg.

Tesla Science Center, a non-profit organization (www.teslasciencecenter.org, Box 552, Shoreham, NY 11786), is attempting to raise \$1.5 million to acquire the laboratory and the almost 16 acres on which it stands, and turn it into a museum and science center.

Outgoing State Assemblyman Marc Alessi, in whose district the former laboratory and land is situated, obtained \$850,000 in state funds to go toward the preservation. The Tesla Science Center is seeking private funds to supplement this. Belgium-based Agfa Corp., the owner of the site, has been looking to sell it for commercial development.

Although never as well known in the United States as his arch-competitor, Thomas Edison, Tesla is a national hero in Serbia and Croatia,

although he left to come to the U.S. as a young man. Alessi has visited Serbia and tells of landing at Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade, going to the Nikola Tesla Museum there and using Serbian currency that features Tesla's portrait.

Tesla "honored and appreciated his U.S. citizenship," notes Alessi. We must, he said, save his laboratory and make it a museum and science center to show where the U.S. has "come" in making "innovations"—and how this must continue. The Tesla lesson: "What can be imagined can be accomplished—he is a testament to that."

Democrat Alessi was defeated for re-election in the November election by Republican Dan Losquadro, but Losquadro is also a very strong advocate for creation of a Tesla museum and science center and preservation of the site. As a Suffolk County legislator, Losquadro got county legislation passed to further this. "This is clearly a very important site," said Losquadro after his bill approving a county appraisal of the site was passed.

Both Alessi and Losquadro are from Shoreham and Tesla enthusiasts.

Says Ms. Alcorn: "Everyone recognizes that it is a historic site—but somehow it is not registered as an historic site. This is a site that deserves saving. It has worldwide significance."

It does—and must be saved.