



TROTTA TALKS

From Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta

DISTRICT 13

Serving: Commack, East Northport, Fort Salonga, Head of the Harbor, Kings Park, Northport, Nissequogue, Smithtown & St. James

Dear Neighbor,

This has been an extremely challenging time for all of us, and I hope that you and your family have been well and safe. I thank every frontline and healthcare worker who have and continue to go above and beyond to serve our community. In addition, I thank everyone who has helped in some way, whether checking on neighbors, running errands or taking the time to help however possible.

As always, my office is open for you to share your concerns, ask questions or seek help with a county issue. My staff and I are dedicated to working with you and advocating on your behalf. I welcome your feedback and input on matters before the Legislature so that I can continue to represent you effectively.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe fall.

Sincerely,

Options for Flowerfield

In 1909, John Childs, a horticultural businessman and founder of Floral Park in Nassau County, bought 335 acres in St. James and began farming flowers, bulbs and seeds. He called his new farm Flowerfield. After his sudden death in 1921, his business was sold to a rival and the land was eventually purchased by a helicopter manufacturer, Gyrodyne Company of America, in 1951.

In the 1970's, Gyrodyne stopped manufacturing and part of the property became a light-industrial park and catering hall, while most of it remained open space. In 2005, New York State annexed, through eminent domain, 245.5 acres of Flowerfield to expand Stony Brook University.

Today, the Town of Smithtown is reviewing a light-industrial subdivision proposed for the remaining 75 acres still owned by Gyrodyne. The company is proposing a 150-room hotel with a restaurant, two assisted living centers, two medical office parks and a 7-acre sewage

treatment plant. Although some town officials believe this project will bolster the tax base, others fear it will reshape the area into another commercial center, and that the sewage effluent from the proposed sewage treatment plant will spoil nearby Stony Brook Harbor.



Aerial photo of Flowerfield

Others have suggested the county purchase the property and link it, with an underpass below Route 25A, to Avalon Nature Preserve on the north side of the road. Nature trails could then potentially be expanded to Stony Brook University. This is an ambitious proposal, but it would preserve the bucolic nature of the area without increasing traffic on local roads. All parties would have to come together and negotiate in good faith to make this option possible, but it's certainly worth considering.