

Apollo lunar landing back in spotlight

By David Ambro

The Apollo 11 mission to the moon which captivated the attention of the world more than a half century ago, is back in the spotlight with a new film being made by Glenn Andreiev, of Kings Park.

Mr. Andreiev, a 1980 Northport High School graduate, has begun filming Long Island Joins the Space Race, a story inspired by his father's work at Grumman on the Apollo Lunar Excursion Module (LEM), the only manned vehicle to land anywhere beyond earth.

Mr. Andreiev has raised enough money to start filming and he has produced a trailer that is available for viewing online at glennandreiev.com. The trailer features interviews with people who remember the lunar landing July 20, 1969. He said one of his favorite scenes in the trailer is an interview with a woman who talks about how her sister began crocheting an Afghan to stay awake later into the night. With the original Afghan on her lap, the

woman said the moment Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the surface of the moon, her sister tied off a stitch, and she held up an orange piece of wool that marks the stitch.

The film is being co-produced by Vernon Gravdal. To share an Apollo 11 story or to donate to the film go to glennandreiev.com.

During a recent interview, Mr. Andreiev said last week he was filming people as they tried freeze-dried food that the astronauts ate. "We are doing that just to get an idea of what it was like to be an astronaut," he said. "It went pretty well. People said that 'if these mean going up in space, I'll eat anything.'"

"Now I'm going to start getting into the down and dirty of it," he said. "Basically I want to reach out to as many people as I can who were involved in the space program because, I hate to say it, time is running out with them. This was an event that happened 53 years ago."

He has an appointment to film at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, where

the LEM is on permanent exhibit. He also intends to film at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida later this summer. He is also interviewing former employees and historians at Grumman, where the LEM was built.

The trailer features historic video of the July 16, 1969 Apollo 11 takeoff from Cape Canaveral. Mr. Andreiev said he hopes to obtain additional historical video of the Apollo 11 mission for his movie. He said there were rows of 16mm cameras filming the takeoff and there is a lot of film footage is in the public domain available for his use. He said all of the NASA Apollo footage is in the public domain.

In addition, there is a back story about the space race competition with the Soviet Union, and he is looking for film footage of Soviet rocket launches to incorporate into the film.

Mr. Andreiev said the Apollo program and the moon landing was at its height of public consciousness in 1968 and 1969, which was a very tumultuous period in



A stitch from the moment Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon.

America. "This is the one event that really brought people together. It didn't matter if you were Mr. Conservative or a hippie, this was something everyone could be proud of and enjoyed."

Mr. Andreiev said he expects to be filming the rest of the summer and into the fall. He expects to have

the movie edited for release sometime next year. "I want to make it something that is really coherent, that doesn't put anyone to sleep, but really tells the story," Ms. Andreiev said. "I really want it to have the feeling of that fun science professor you had in school who told stories in that very fun and informative way."

Be our guest

Turning the corner in the battle to preserve Flowerfield Fairgrounds

By Amy Biondi

When hundreds of people come together in support of a shared goal like protecting the character of their community and leaving it a better place for future generations, great things can be achieved no matter how challenging a situation may seem, so long as community residents stay focused on the end goal and refuse to give up. That is exactly what has happened with the broadly supported movement to preserve Flowerfield Fairgrounds and protect the surrounding historic district and agricultural lands that are the last remaining rural corridor in Saint James.

Recent events show that we may have finally turned the corner in the ongoing effort supported by the St. James-Head of the Harbor Neighborhood Preservation Coalition, the Village of Head of the Harbor and many local and state elected officials to preserve the Fairgrounds as open space:

- Gyrodyne's proposed mega development is tied

up in court: Efforts to advance a massive hotel, medical offices, and an assisted living housing complex with parking for over 2,500 cars as well as a sewage treatment plant are tied up in court, as the Village of Head of the Harbor and 23 local property owners filed suit earlier this year to challenge the insufficient environmental review of the proposed mega development.

- Support is strong for a compromise plan to preserve the fairgrounds: hundreds of local residents and many elected officials have expressed support for a compromise plan that would preserve the Fairgrounds and allow limited development on parts of the Gyrodyne property that are already occupied by buildings and parking lots in the event that Head of the Harbor Mayor Douglas Dahlgard's plan to see the entire property preserved as a park cannot be realized.

- Gyrodyne will accept offers to preserve the fairgrounds: In a significant breakthrough, Gyrodyne announced in April that it would be open to accepting

offers to purchase all or part of its property, clearing the way for the first time for a concerted effort by The Village of Head of the Harbor, elected officials who support preservation of the Fairgrounds and the Saint James – Head of the Harbor Neighborhood Preservation Coalition to mount a concerted effort to acquire the Fairgrounds for preservation.

- A \$4 billion state bond act can provide funding for preservation: In November, voters are being asked to approve an historic environmental initiative that, if approved, could provide funding for important initiatives like the preservation of Flowerfield Fairgrounds.

- First steps to see the property preserved are now underway: The first step necessary to reach the goal of seeing the Fairgrounds preserved are now underway, as Long Island's premier land preservation organization, the Peconic Land Trust, has commissioned an appraisal of the property to establish the value of the land to engage in negotiations with Gyrodyne to acquire the Fairgrounds for preservation as open space.

- A community coming together to achieve a common goal: Donations from local residents have supported an environmental consultant, a traffic study, an appraisal of the property, and the first round of legal action, but more money is needed. On Wednesday, August 3, please join me and supporters of the preservation to attend a fundraiser and viewing at Harmony Vineyards of the inspiring film *Forever Wild*, which chronicles the commitment and successful efforts of the community of Telluride, Colorado, to protect the character of their community from a massive development project. For information, go to: stjameshohnpc.com.

Each of these recent achievements is significant. Taken together, they mark a clear shift in momentum in favor of preservation of Flowerfield Fairgrounds. We must continue to support the Coalition, and help them to work together with elected officials and responsible preservation groups to achieve the community's goal of seeing the Fairgrounds preserved, and Gyrodyne fairly compensated for the value of the property.

Letters from our readers

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unfit to lead this country, and there's no one better to replace him if he steps down.

Do you really think people care about gay posters being taken down, as they should be taken down? Do you really believe readers care about the overt political ploy of the gay lobby, with all the turmoil in this country and the world? Where has real journalism gone to? Where is there fair and balanced reporting? Where are your eyes, ears, heart and mind? Do you listen to the cries of the people?

Read Matt Kindelmann's column, *Dog day strolls* . . . , for that existential walk into nostalgia where belief systems were communal. Where thought and common sense existed and radiated through a time when people and government reinforced a sense of place and belonging in the community. Where there was continuity of life, a feeling and a sense of pride that now we're too close-minded to see.

Wander into this world and remember how things once were and how God was not the villain and how satan is now a god. Amble down a time when men were men and women were women, where families were bound together with a mother and a father who taught them about life through their experiences. Get lost in your memories of familial get-togethers, slurping ices on a hot summer day and watching fireflies at night lighting up your world of imagination with nature's glow.

Go back and evoke the pride you felt in you as you recalled happy moments in a country that was less than perfect but kept us together as a people, embracing a semblance of shared truth and stability in our world.

Matt Kindelmann has it right. We have forgotten those good, nostalgic times and now is a good time in this community newspaper to channel it.

Joan Goral
Kings Park