



**Dog days**  
Community walk  
at Flowerfield  
September 24

-stories, page 7

**Head on**  
Cadillac crashes  
into Lake Ave.  
VFW building

-stories, page 3



# The Smithtown News

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## Cleaning up



During a special ceremony at the Old Dock Bluff in Kings Park Tuesday, September 19, Smithtown Supervisor Patrick Vecchio (at podium) accepted accolades from business leaders and state officials, including Governor George Pataki (to the supervisor's right), Texas billionaire and Clean Energy, Inc. founder T. Boone Pickens (to the supervisor's left) and State Senator John Flanagan (right). The Town of Smithtown is the first municipality east of California to convert its garbage truck fleet from polluting diesel fuel to compressed natural gas (CNG). To accommodate Smithtown's conversion, Clean Energy and the State of New York have entered into an agreement to expand the CNG fueling station at the New York State office building in Hauppauge, which will make it the largest such plant on this side of the Mississippi River.

-Richard Valeo photos



Vecchio, S'town  
earn praise for  
landmark move to  
natural gas fleet

By DAVID AMBRO

With the mouth of the Nissequogue River as a backdrop, and with a brand new compressed natural gas-powered refuse truck parked face-to-face with an old diesel-powered garbage truck in the foreground, the Town of Smithtown and Supervisor Patrick Vecchio received acclaim Tuesday, September 19 for the landmark decision to convert its residential garbage truck fleet from diesel fuel to compressed natural gas (CNG) by January 1, 2007.

The conversion will displace 2.5 million gallons per year of foreign oil with domestic natural gas, and over the seven-year life of the Town's new contracts with residential garbage carters, nitrogen oxide emissions will be reduced by 176 tons and air borne particulate emissions—smog—will be reduced by 173 tons. In addition, the cost of curbside garbage collection services to Smithtown homeowners will be reduced under an agreement the Town has entered into with Clean Energy, Inc. of Seal Beach California, to provide a fixed rate for CNG below the cost of diesel fuel.

Governor George Pataki headlined a contingent of state officials and Boone Pickens, the founder of Clean Energy, headlined a contingent of business leaders, who attended a ceremony at the Old Dock Bluff in Kings Park Tuesday to hail Supervisor Vecchio for his leadership, and to salute the Town for providing a model that will be carried to other municipalities across the nation.

To emphasize the importance of the Smithtown fleet conversion, Governor Pataki invoked the name of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who he said spews a message to global leaders of hatred toward America. Governor Pataki said more than 60 percent of the fuel used in the United States, comes from foreign sources, benefiting the likes of Ahmadinejad. He said to continue such a rate of foreign fuel consumption backs terrorists and supports our enemies.

Governor Pataki said an aggressive approach to stop financing these enemy

(Continued on page 28)

