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NOTEBOOK / Kings Park To Preserve Its Heritage: [SMITHTOWN Edition]

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Kings Park School District has opened the doors to the Kings Park Heritage Museum, designed to house and present artifacts, records and other historical information about the community.

The museum, which was approved by the board of education two years ago, has since grown to include three large rooms for displays in the district's administration building, the RJO building on Church and Old Dock Roads. Classes visit the museum, guided by volunteers who steer them to certain displays appropriate to their age.

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Some of the items on display are a 1929 Model A Ford, a player piano, various sports equipment and uniforms from the past and a replica of a

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general store. The museum, which operates 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, was developed to teach students and other residents that Kings Park was once a community of farms.

Nonmedical records and items from the Kings Park Psychiatric Center, a part of the community for many years and now closing, are some of the latest artifacts to be incorporated into the museum. Booths set up to resemble old-time kitchens and workshops, before the age of electricity, teach schoolchildren what life was like 100 years ago.

Volunteers are the mainstay of this museum. Led by Leo Ostebo, a volunteer who formerly taught English at Kings Park High School for 30 years, more than 141 people have helped create and maintain the museum. Currently, students are working on restoring a buggy.

The expansion of the museum is expected. Ostebo said the museum is actively seeking residents who grew up in Kings Park and are over age 75 for interviews about life in the town. Anyone interested can call Ostebo at the museum, 269-3207.

The museum is open to the public, and there is no admission fee. COMMACK HEALTH AWARENESS. Commack High School recently held a week of seminars and discussions on health issues, called Health Awareness Week.

Most of the topics discussed dealt with teenage health issues, such as dating abuses, AIDS awareness and substance abuse.

The week's events were organized by the school's student council. Guest speakers included a representative from the Cancer Care Foundation on the prevention of cancers, and a representative from Long Island Association for AIDS Care, who helped students get the facts about the deadly disease. A workshop was also given on bulimia and anorexia, two eating disorders that strike teenagers, particularly girls, at a high rate.

In addition, social worker Mary Ellen Rudden and Dr. John Kelly, school psychologist, held workshops on healthy relationships, the power of choice and the facts on date abuse. SMITHTOWN DISTRICT HAS HOME PAGE. The Smithtown School District, in the interest of keeping in touch with residents and parents in the district, now has its own home page on the World Wide Web.

World Wide Web is a computer bank located on the Internet. A home page is a space dedicated to a specific topic, in this case Smithtown school news. The home page is accessible to anyone with Internet access.

The home page will have information on colleges, homework assignments, math and social studies lessons related to Web sites, sports standings, career information and a Smithtown High School alumni/ teacher e-mail address book.

Additions to the home page will be made throughout the year. Plans include putting student writings and artwork as well as district news and calendars online.

The home page is run by technology education teacher Don Hodson and his communications class at the Freshman Campus. COUNTYWIDE ELECTED TO STATE POST. Pamela Betheil, a member of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board of Education, was elected vice president of the New York State School Boards Association.

Betheil has served on the state school board since 1980 as the director of Area 12, which covers Suffolk County.

Betheil has been a member of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES board since 1991. Before that, she had been a board member of the Middle Island School District, now named Longwood School District.

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