

LONG ISLAND REGION
October 30th – November 26th, 2003

Expansions and Openings

NEW THIS MONTH

The president of West Virginia-based **Alliance Aircraft** is seeking to temporarily lease space in Calverton (Suffolk) in which to build a prototype of a passenger jet designed to carry 35-50 people. The company plans to build a permanent factory near the runway and hire 900 employees over two years. (Newsday – October 31, 2003)

Wal-Mart is opening its ninth Long Island store in Valley Stream (Nassau), creating 300 jobs. (Newsday – October 30, 2003)

Lake Success (Nassau)-based **North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System**, the Island's largest health care provider, is negotiating a new lease in i.Park Lake Success. The new agreement would triple the hospital's holdings in iPark to about 20% of the total space in the park. (Newsday – November 3, 2003)

Northrup Grumman Corp of Bethpage (Nassau) won a Pentagon research contract worth \$14.1 million to develop sensors and other tools for airplanes. Work on the project will be done at the Grumman's site in Bethpage and in El Segundo, California. (Newsday – November 5, 2003)

(UPDATE) Touro College has broken ground on its new law center in Central Islip (Suffolk). (L.I. Business News – Oct. 31 – Nov. 6, 2003)

Assemblyman Steven Englebright of Setauket (Suffolk) wants to convert an area in the historic village currently occupied by three strip malls into The Setauket Village Center, a \$250 million plan that would include affordable apartments or condos above shops for young adults and seniors, a 30 acre park modeled after Central Park, and an amphitheater. The project is still in the planning stage and is not without opponents. (Newsday – November 10, 2003)

In January 2004 lighting products manufacturer **AtLite** will move its manufacturing operations from Brooklyn and Queens to Hicksville (Nassau) and bring 220 jobs to the area, 170 of them in manufacturing. (Newsday – November 12, 2003)

The Point Blank Body Armor unit of Carle Place (Nassau)-based **DHB Industries Inc.** received "the largest single order for body armor issued" by the Department of Defense (\$60

million). Unfortunately, Point Blank's manufacturing plant is in Florida. (Newsday – November 13, 2003)

Developers have unveiled a plan to build a **Lowe's** home improvement store and senior citizen housing on 58.6 acres of land on the former **South Oaks Hospital** campus spanning the Nassau/Suffolk border along Sunrise Highway in Massapequa (Nassau) and Amityville (Suffolk). The site will include 308 co-op apartments for seniors, a 160-bed assisted-living facility and a **Lowe's** store on the Nassau side of the border and 136 senior rental housing units on the Suffolk side, and generate construction and permanent jobs as well as substantial real estate, sales and payroll tax revenues. (Newsday - November 17, 2003)

FPM Group of Ronkonkoma (Suffolk), a small environmental engineering firm, has been received a U.S. Air Force contract to remove pollutants from the ground at U.S. air bases around the world. FPM will need to acquire another company in the environmental engineering industry and will add 20 people by next year and about 250 in the next few years. (Newsday – November 18, 2003)

Brookhaven (Suffolk) **National Laboratory** is on the Department of Energy's priority list to participate in an international fusion energy project. (Newsday – November 18, 2003)

Greenvale (Suffolk)-based **Century 21 - Laffey** is looking to expand its presence in Suffolk and Manhattan as a result of increased sales. The company currently has six offices in Nassau and 21 in Suffolk. (Newsday – November 19, 2003)

Bethpage (Nassau)-based **Northrop Grumman Corp.** expects to add 900 jobs on the Island by the end of next year, bringing its local workforce to approximately 3,000. (Newsday – November 20, 2003)

Melville (Suffolk)-based medical and dental equipment giant **Henry Schein Inc.** is expanding its distribution of specialty oncology pharmaceuticals. (Newsday – November 20, 2003)

(UPDATE) **The Shinnecock Indian Nation**'s plans to build a casino in Hampton Bays (Suffolk) may be on hold for as long as 18 months as the group awaits certification of its tribal status by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. (Newsday – November 21, 2003)

The New York Islanders hockey team has partnered with **Future Tech Enterprise Inc.** of Holbrook (Suffolk) to redesign the executive suites at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale as high-tech business centers. (L.I. Business News – November 14-20, 2003)

NEW LAST MONTH

SUNY Farmingdale (Suffolk) is spending big bucks to change its image from that of a sleepy, agriculture school to one where applied sciences and technology reign. The school this year launched a four-year BS degree in bioscience and the state earmarked \$20 million for high-tech research and development at their biotech incubator. "Farmingdale State" also recently purchased 13 Piper aircraft for \$2.7 million, and the college is the only one in the SUNY chain to offer a four-year professional pilot's degree. **OSI Pharmaceuticals** occupies 80% of the biotech building now and has given \$500,000 toward a new building to include laboratories and incubator space for prospective companies. (L.I. Business News – Sept. 19-25, 2003)

Irish biotech firm **ICON Laboratories** plans to build a high-tech research laboratory in a former BJ's Warehouse in Farmingdale (Suffolk). The move is part of an initiative by the towns of Babylon and Huntington and the Broadhollow Bioscience Park to turn the Route 110 corridor into a haven for biotech and bioscience companies. (Newsday – Oct. 17, 2003)

UPDATE: Groundbreaking for the new **Touro Law Center** in Central Islip (Suffolk) will take place Oct. 28. (L.I. Business News – Sept. 19-25, 2003)

Island-wide **North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System** is providing extensive education and training for nurses and employees who want to become nurses. North Shore LIJ is offering master's and bachelor's degrees on site to nurses (as part of an effort to increase loyalty to the system) and tuition-free on-site training for new nurses. There are 200 students enrolled. (L.I. Business News – Sept. 19-25, 2003)

Real-estate developer Ted Weiss launched the **Melville Executive Forum** (Suffolk) aimed at encouraging businesses to provide paid internships for college students in an effort to keep young adults from leaving the Island. (L.I. Business News – Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2003)

Ground will soon be broken for a new **Holiday Inn & Suites** hotel in the Brookhaven Technology Park (Suffolk). (L.I. Business News – Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2003)

Resources Connection, a California-based staffing firm specializing in financial services, opened its first Long Island office in Melville (Suffolk). (L.I. Business News – Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2003)

Bethpage Federal Credit Union (Nassau), Long Island's largest, won approval to expand its field of membership to all Long Island residents except those in the towns of Southampton, Easthampton and Shelter Island. The bank doesn't have immediate plans for new locations, but next year plans to open two to four locations. (L.I. Business News – Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2003)

J. Kings Food Service Professionals in Holtsville (Suffolk) is expanding its warehouse and distribution operation. The company will add 50 employees over the next two years in sales, accounting, food delivery and warehousing. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 3 – 9, 2003)

Davidoff and Malito Law Firm in Garden City (Nassau) opened an office in Melville to serve its Suffolk clients. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 3 – 9, 2003)

Huntington Station (Suffolk)-based producer of thin-film circuits, **American Technical Ceramics**, hired 88 people after laying off 123 in 2001. The hiring results from increased business in the military and wireless infrastructure markets. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 3 – 9, 2003)

Sbarro Inc. is rolling out a dozen franchise units in Long Island theaters. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 10-16, 2003)

UPDATE: Michigan-based purveyor of natural supplements, **IdeaSphere**, bought nutritional supplement manufacturer **Twinlab** of Hauppauge (Suffolk). Twinlab filed for bankruptcy protection in September. IdeaSphere may add jobs in the coming months. (Newsday – October 21, 2003)

Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Lake Success (Nassau) is building a hearing and speech facility to be called the Apelian Cochlear Implant Center. It will focus on the insertion of devices and repair hearing disabilities and include a voice laboratory to detect and treat hearing and speaking disorders. (Long Island Business News – Oct. 17-23, 2003)

SUNY Stony Brook (Suffolk) received a one-year, \$4.1 million federal grant to help develop academic programs in archaeology and environmental health at four Iraqi universities. (Newsday – October 21, 2003)

American Home Mortgage Holdings Inc. of Melville (Suffolk) said their third-quarter profit rose 46%, due to the fact that they hired new staff to win more business. (Newsday – October 28, 2003)

Bruce Barnet, a Quogue (Suffolk) developer, has the go ahead to develop the 35-acre site in Riverside (Suffolk) as **one of the largest industrial parks in the Town of Southampton**. (Newsday – October 29, 2003)

Homeland Security

Senator Hillary Clinton when told business executives that she's helping Long Island become

the “epicenter for defense” by getting homeland security and defense dollars from Washington. (Long Island Business News – Oct. 17-23, 2003)

DHB Industries Inc. of Carle Place (Nassau), maker of protective body armor, received more than \$85 million in orders from several branches of the armed services.

EDO Corp., a defense electronics company, received \$26 million from the Pentagon to manufacture Warlock jammers, devices used to block radio frequency signals that set off remotely controlled bombs .

Telephonics Corp. of Farmingdale (Suffolk) will hire 35 to 40 engineers, managers, and marketing executives as a result of a \$35 million homeland security contract. (Newsday – October 22, 2003)

SUNY Stony Brook (Suffolk) is seeking to become the site of the nation’s **Homeland Security Institute** or one of 10 Homeland Security Centers of Excellence. The institute is funded along with university programs in a \$62 million section of the Department of Homeland Security's budget, while \$70 million has been allocated to fund scholarships and up to 10 Centers of Excellence by the end of 2004. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 10-16, 2003)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Plans to cut a number of security screeners at **Macarthur Airport** in Ronkonkoma (Suffolk) were canceled. Instead, 32 part-time screening jobs will be created and some of the current full-time screeners will voluntarily take a cut in hours to fill some of the part-time positions. (Newsday – August 26, 2003)

Big Lots opened its third store on Long Island in the Centereach Shopping Mall in Suffolk County. (L.I. Business News August 29 – September 4, 2003)

Fortune Magazine rated **National Medical Health Card** of Port Washington (Nassau), **Forest Laboratories**, and **EDO Corporation** in Amityville (Suffolk) in the top 100 list of fastest growing companies. (L.I. Business News August 29 – September 4, 2003)

The Wingate Inn of Commack (Suffolk) will open in September. (L.I. Business News August 29 – September 4, 2003)

Hilton Hotels Corporation opened a new 83-room **Hampton Inn & Suites** hotel in Rockville Center (Nassau). (L.I. Business News August 29 – September 4, 2003)

CPI Aerostructures Inc., manufacturer of military airplane parts, saw a rise in contracts in the first 8 months of 2003. Revenue is up 11 percent in the first quarter compared to the second quarter of last year. CPI has 120 employees, 60 on Long Island. (Newsday – September 4, 2003)

Farmingdale State University (Suffolk) has a new four-year bioscience degree program that seeks to increase job opportunities for students and meet the biotechnology industry's employment needs. (Newsday – September 5, 2003)

Northrop Grumman of Bethpage (Nassau) hosted a "Technology Day 2003" conference. Top executives at high-tech companies such as Computer Associates and Symbol Technologies were invited and the key speaker was Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The purpose of the conference was to develop new partnerships and contracts by demonstrating Grumman's aerospace technology since they have won a large military contract to product combat airplanes and homeland security equipment. (Newsday – September 5, 2003)

Stop & Shop in Medford (Suffolk) will relocate to a larger space and reopen as a "megastore." (L.I. Business News – August 15–21, 2003)

Topspin Partners of Hauppauge (Suffolk) purchased the bankruptcy assets of Tiffen Co. (Hauppauge), a photography and imaging equipment producer. Tiffen employs approximately 130 employees.

Americana Manhasset, a high-end shopping plaza in Manhasset (Nassau), recently completed a renovation. Retailers Bottega Veneta, Yves St. Laurent and Gucci moved into the complex. Coach and Brooks Brothers moved into larger spaces in the plaza. (L.I. Business News – August 15–21, 2003)

Eagle Auto Mall is building a new auto center in Riverhead (Suffolk) that will house Chrysler, Jeep, Kia, Mazda and Volvo franchises. (L.I. Business News – August 15-21, 2003)

Melville (Suffolk)-based mortgage bank **American Home Mortgage Inc.** is hiring 325 former employees from Sacramento, California-based Capitol Commerce Mortgage. Some 75 account executives will do mortgage brokering and the remaining employees will process mortgages. (Newsday – September 11, 2003)

Two proposed hotels, **Homewood Suites** (147-rooms) and **Hilton Garden Inn** (178-room) in Melville (Suffolk), that were halted by the Sept. 11-induced economic slump are back on track. Homewood Suites will open December 2005 and the Hilton Garden Inn in 2006. (Newsday –

September 11, 2003)

Briarcliff College will consolidate its two locations into the former Swezey's department store in Patchogue (Suffolk) by spring 2004. Briarcliff plans to double the size of its student body and faculty and is negotiating to lease or build student housing. The merchants in the area welcome the takeover as an economic boost to the area. (Newsday – September 12, 2003)

Nassau County reached an agreement with the union representing its police force on a six-year contract that raises salaries by 21% (3.25% a year). Reform provisions in the contract will save the county \$30 million a year. (Newsday – September 12, 2003)

Cablevision launched a new satellite-television service called “Voom” being sold at Sears store outlets which will compete with DirecTV, EchoStar as well as Cablevision. Bethpage-based Cablevision with 3 million cable TV subscribers hopes to have the service in homes by Oct. 1 and to spin off the venture as a separate company by year-end. (Newsday – September 16, 2003)

American Home Mortgage Holdings Inc. of Melville (Suffolk) will consolidate its three offices to a new Broadhollow Road location in Melville (Suffolk) in October 2003. American Home employs 500 on Long Island. (Newsday – September 18, 2003)

Garrett Aviation of Ronkonkoma (Suffolk) received a \$60,000 grant from the NYS Department of Labor “Building Skills” program to train technicians to refurbish and maintain corporate jets. Another 17 Long Island companies received grants totaling \$1 million to upgrade the skills of 965 employees this year. (Newsday – September 19, 2003)

Minority-owned businesses are now “ the fastest-growing segment in the Long Island economy and the national economy ” according to Roslyn Goldmacher, chief executive of Long Island Development Corp., an organization that arranges funding for small businesses. (Newsday – September 22, 2003)

Tanger Outlet Center in Riverhead (Suffolk) is seeking approval from the Town of Riverhead to purchase 14 acres for an additional building to house several new stores. The purchase requires NYS Department of Environmental Conservation approval. (Newsday – September 24, 2003)

Bethpage Federal Credit Union (Nassau) became the third largest credit union in the country after regulators approved its new charter. The company expects to hire 30 to 50 people and add four new branches next year to handle new customers. (Newsday – September 24, 2003)

Hain Celestial Group of Melville (Suffolk) and **Cargill Health & Food Technologies** of Minneapolis will jointly develop new food and beverage products. They predict that the combination of resources will accelerate the growth of new products within the industry. (Newsday – August 28, 2003)

EDO Corp. of Deer Park (Suffolk) won a \$4 million contract from the Navy to produce a mine sweeping system using unmanned surface vessels. (Newsday – September 9, 2003)

Layoffs and Closings

NEW THIS MONTH

(UPDATE) Family-owned department store chain and 110-year-old Long Island landmark, **Swezey's** closed stores in Patchogue, Riverhead, East Setauket and West Babylon (all Suffolk) and Glen Cove (Nassau) for the last time and went out of business for good as of the first week of November. (Newsday – October 30, 2003)

Hauppauge (Suffolk)-based **Twinlab Corp.** announced that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court has approved its sale to IdeaSphere Inc. IdeaSphere said it plans to keep all of the Twinlab's employees, including those on Long Island, and may even add staff in the coming months. (Newsday – November 4, 2003)

The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ordered **RX Depot** outlets in 50 states, including five on Long Island (Massapequa, Mineola and Westbury - all Nassau - and Bohemia and Miller Place - both Suffolk) to shut down. RX Depot purchases cheaper prescription drugs from Canada and passes the savings on to consumers. Pharmaceutical companies and the FDA maintain that other countries don't have the same standards of safety and purity as those enforced by the U.S. government. (Newsday – November 7, 2003)

Suffolk County lawmakers abolished 77 of 89 new government jobs that retiring County Executive Robert Gaffney wanted to create in the 2004 budget, claiming the jobs amounted to political patronage. In addition the legislators added back jobs - included 20 deputy sheriffs and 5 public health nurses – that Gaffney had eliminated from the budget despite a department's request. (Newsday – November 10, 2003)

Metro area **Toys "R" Us** subsidiaries **Imaginarium** and **Kids "R" Us** stores will be closing. Locations affected: **Imaginarium**: Merrick and Woodbury Village (Nassau) County and Huntington (Suffolk); **Kids "R" Us**: Carle Place, Levittown, Massapequa, Valley Stream (Nassau) and Bay Shore and Lake Grove (Suffolk). (Newsday.com 11/19/03)

New York Community Bancorp has laid off 60 people since its new acquisition of Roslyn Bancorp. The company expects to let 40 more people go by the end of the year. (Newsday – November 20, 2003)

NEW LAST MONTH

UPDATE: Islandia (Suffolk)-based computer giant **Computer Associates International Inc.** plans to hire several hundred workers in Hyderabad, India and about 100 more in China in the next year. The company dismissed 450 US employees, including about 50 at the Islandia headquarters this April as part of a “re-organization.” (L.I. Business News – Oct. 3 – 9, 2003)

Workbench Furniture is closing three stores on Long Island, starting with the Carle Place (Nassau) location. The stores will close by November. (Newsday – September 30, 2003)

Verizon offered a buyout package to 12,000 retirement-eligible union technicians and call center operators nationwide upon ratification of the new contract in November. It was not clear what the local impact might be. (Newsday – October 1, 2003)

Hicksville (Nassau)-based electric and gas utility **KeySpan Corp** . laid off 32 managers. (L.I. Business News – Oct. 10-16, 2003)

Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow (Nassau) laid off 35 doctors and threatened to lay off 250 more from its rank and file. (Newsday – October 28, 2003)

J.P. Morgan Chase plans to lay off 1,000 employees by April 2004 and move customer service and collections positions from Chase Cardmember Services in Hicksville to Canada, Tampa, Arizona, Houston and San Antonio. (Newsday – October 28, 2003)

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) officials forecast a deficit for 2005 and plan to slash 1,077 positions, including 892 subway and bus workers such as cleaners, elevator operators and graffiti teams. It was not clear how many Long Islanders might be affected. (Newsday – October 29, 2003)

Bayshore (Suffolk)-based **Tri-Mode Plastics, Inc.** is laying off all 73 workers on 12/19/03. (WARN)

Brookhaven (Suffolk)-based **Arrow Electronics, Inc.** , is closing 11/7/2003. Number affected: 31. (WARN)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Tourism-dependent businesses on the East End (Suffolk) blame poor summer weather for lost revenue, calling this the worst summer in history. Though hotel occupancy went up due to discounted rates, attendance at water parks, boating venues and vineyards was down. (Newsday – August 28, 2003)

Pharmaceutical company **Bristol Myers-Squibb** will close its Garden City (Nassau) plant and lay off all 64 employees. (Newsday – September 4, 2003)

Symbol Technologies Inc of Holtsville (Suffolk) cut 95 positions, mostly engineering and marketing jobs. (Newsday – September 9, 2003)

Long Island Convention & Visitors Bureau reports a drop in visitor travel and a decline in the hotel industry due to the economic effects of Sept. 11th. Lodging is down and corporate clientele business is down. Another factor affecting the occupancy rate is the influx of new hotels during the same period. (L.I. Business News – September 5-11, 2003)

Nassau Health Care Corp., the body that controls **Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC)**, proposed a layoff plan it says will save \$5 million in 2003 and \$25 million in 2004. It is not clear how many doctors could lose their jobs. NUMC employs 200 full-time doctors and 300 residents. Last year the hospital laid off 350 employees ranging from doctors to custodians. (Newsday – September 23, 2003)

Godolphin Racing, Inc. at Belmont Race Track in Elmont (Nassau) will close October 31, 2003 and lay off 28 employees. (WARN Notice)

Swezey's Department Stores of Patchogue (Suffolk) is closing and 56 employees are being laid off on October 1, 2003. Six additional locations totaling 465 jobs are affected in Suffolk and Nassau counties. (WARN)

Labor Disputes

NEW THIS MONTH

56 clerical and warehouse workers employed by **Premier Wine & Spirits** of Syosset (Nassau) and represented by Brooklyn-based Local 1D of the Wine, Liquor and Distillery Workers Union picketed over wages, medical benefits and staffing after their contract expired November 1, 2003. (Newsday – November 5, 2003)

Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union is again campaigning in Melville

(Suffolk) and in Queens for “Justice for Janitors”: better wages, health benefits, and better working conditions. Local 32BJ has been handing out pamphlets at buildings in Queens and Long Island where workers are represented by a rival union called National Organization of Industrial Trade Unions, which is seen as a pariah – “a company union”, designed to keep genuine unions out. (Newsday – November 10, 2003)

NEW LAST MONTH

– The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a suit against **First Wireless Group** in Brentwood for firing 30 Latino immigrants and replacing them with Asians after Latinos asked for higher wages since the Asians worked at a higher salary. Two workers filed complaints with the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission because allegedly Asians got stools to sit on while Latinos had to stand. (Newsday – October 2, 2003)

UPDATE: The 324-member **C.W. Post Collegial Federation**, the union representing faculty at the C.W. Post campus of **LI University**, voted unanimously on September 26 to ratify a new three-year contract, ending the walkout that began September 8. (Newsday – September 30, 2003)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

– 200 hundred school bus drivers and monitors struck against **Laidaw Transit** in East Moriches (Suffolk) over pay raises and work schedules. The drivers’ contract expired July 31. The union rejected a 12 percent pay raise over three years. (Newsday – September 5, 2003)

Instructors at the **C.W. Post** campus of LI University in Brookville (Nassau) walked off the job on September 8 in a dispute over wages, workload and health benefits. On September 22 the faculty rejected a contract offer which included a proposal to dock strikers’ pay. As of September 25, facing firing, the teachers were reported to be near a settlement. (Newsday – September 9-25, 2003)

Arbitrators awarded the **Nassau County Police Department** a 19% wage increase over six years but temporarily froze wages, reduced bonus pay and eliminated the Flag Day holiday. The last arbitration award was in 1997. The county plans to replace police officers on desk jobs with lower-salaried civilians and if retirements take place 140 jobs will need to be filled. (Newsday – September 9, 2003)

Six Huntington Parks Department employees filed a \$10 million federal lawsuit alleging the town discriminated against them because of their gender. The women say they have been passed over for promotions in favor of men with less experience. (Newsday – September 19,

2003)