

THE GREENLAWN BUGLE



Greenlawn Post 1244
Spring 2025

Boys State and Girls State 2025

Harborfields High School



Boys State. L-R: Dr. Rory Manning, Superintendent Harborfields School District; Liam O'Hanlon; Rhys Walter; Ryan Tarsio; Daniel Lydon, Brody Surbeck, Alexander Reeger; Charlie Armstrong; Hal Dieterle; Ed O'Shea; and Dr. Philip B Farrelly, Principal.



Girls State. L-R: Ed O'Shea, Hal Dieterle, Norene Miraglia (Alternate), Phoebe Xidas (Citizen), Meghan Duff (Alternate), Dr. Philip Farrelly (Principal), and Charlie Armstrong.

Walt Whitman High School



Boys State. L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Hal Dieterle, Patrick Klinkenberg, Alexander Gillet, Ryan Pastore, Ryan Perillo, Ryan Kaiser, Ed O'Shea, and Dr. John Murphy, Principal. Not pictured: Brandon Villatoro-Fuentes.



Girls State. L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Ayraa Shah (Alternate), Sarah Bruzual (Citizen), and Corey Blair head of guidance.

Boys State and Girls State 2025

Huntington High School



Boys State: L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Principal Rochelle Brown, Delegate Walter Kusterbeck, Ed O'Shea and Hal Dieterle.

Commack High School



Boys State: L-R: Mr. Matt Keltos, Vice-principal, Charlie Armstrong, Francesco Delio, Keith Abruzzo, Eric Florentino, Hal Dieterle, Jillian Golubow, School Counselor, and Ed O'Shea.

Boys State / Girls State 2025

In June 1935, the Illinois Department of the American Legion approved a project proposed by Hayes Kennedy, an instructor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the department's Americanism Chairman, along with Harold Card, who served as the Department's Boy Scout Chairman and was also a junior high school instructor.

This coming June 2025 will mark the 90th anniversary of founding the American Legion Boys State Program.

Kennedy and Card had become concerned about “young pioneer camps” being set up across the country and alternatively described them as either fascist or communist-inspired. Kennedy believed that a countermovement must be initiated among the nation’s youth to emphasize the value of a democratic form of government and sustain an effort to preserve and perpetuate it.

The first Boys State in the nation was held on the grounds of the Illinois State Fair. As this initiative succeeded and spread throughout the United States, the American Legion Auxiliary began providing similar opportunities for high school-age girls. Thus, Girls

State was founded. The first Girls State was conducted in 1937, but it was not a regular part of the American Legion Auxiliary’s Better Citizenship programs until 1948.

Since 1947, each Boys State and Girls State program has sent two delegates to Boys Nation and Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Each state selects its delegates in a different manner.

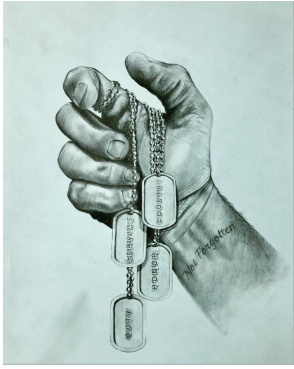
The event aims to educate delegates about the processes of government in the United States of America by participating in a mock Senate and conducting mock elections for Boys/Girls national Senate president pro temp, secretary, vice president, and president. Additionally, delegates will attend lectures and visit governmental institutions and historical sites.

In future articles, we will discuss other aspects of the program, including the differences between various state programs and the experiences of some attendees over the years.

Edward O'Shea

Co-chairman, Post 1244
Boys and Girls State

Operation Enduring Enduring Care



A new year has started, and Operation Enduring Care continues.

The current change of administration has given me hope for additional resources that will be allocated to our veterans in need.

Until this time comes, we will continue, with the help of our friends and neighbors, to supply as much as we can to all who need it.

We have regular donations from people and assistance from other groups, such as the Good Faith Walk run by Ginger Hoernig and from Patty and Rocky

Nardelli, who, on their own time, assist us with collections of food and clothing, often delivering it themselves. Many other people contact me with smaller donations throughout the year, and we are happy to get them.

We look forward to this year's car show and other upcoming events.

My thanks to all who assist me and my wife, Connie, with this effort, as we could not do it without you. Thank you, John and Connie Carr.

John Carr

Chairman, Operation Enduring Care
Chaplain, American Legion Post 1244
(516) 935-4268
P38Lightning45@gmail.com

30th ANNUAL "GOOD FAITH WALK" Friday, April 18

To Benefit St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish Outreach & "Operation Enduring Care"

**Please join us at 12PM on Good Friday
Walt Whitman High School Track
301 West Hills Rd. Huntington Station, NY**

The walk takes only 45 minutes! (it's not necessary to walk) Just bring your donation of cash, or a check payable to any of the below mentioned charities in an envelope:

1) St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish Outreach (Payee)

To assist the Outreach program in feeding and clothing the needy in our community. Increased prices in general have made life even more difficult for those in need in our community. Your donations will help restock needed supplies in our food pantry.

2) American Legion Post #1244 (Payee)

(Please note "Operation Enduring Care" in memo section of check**)**

To assist local veterans in need. Operation Enduring care was founded in 2009 by Al Statton, a local American Legionnaire and 20 year Army veteran and firefighter. Operation Enduring Care consists of veterans helping other veterans. They support veterans at the homeless shelter, hospice unit and nursing home at the Northport VA, along with other veterans in need. They collect non-perishable foods, toiletries, bedding and clothing. Their purpose is to make sure no veteran is forgotten, and that their service is appreciated. Your monetary donations will go a long way in purchasing the items they need.

** If you are unable to walk, but would like to make a donation, simply make a check payable to the payee of your choice and send it to:

Ginger Hoernig, 4 Chambers Court, Huntington Sta., NY 11746 631-271-8581

Charlie Armstrong Honored by Town Board



At the January 7th board meeting, the Town Board had the honor of recognizing Post 1244 Legionnaire Charlie Armstrong, who served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1971. Charlie later worked as a mechanical engineer and security expert in various positions. For 15 years, he served as the Sergeant at Arms of the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244. He has also coordinated the Legion's Boys & Girls State Program for 17 years, and he currently teaches flag etiquette and oversees the local Flag Retirement Program.

The Supervisor, the Board, and the Town expressed their thanks to Charlie for his dedicated service to the community and the nation. Charlie (center) is shown with a delegation from Post 1244 at the presentation.

Donation to Long Island State Veterans Home

On January 13, Post Commander Carlo Giordano and Past Commander Donna Boyle presented Long Island State Veterans Home with our annual donation to this important resource.

LISVH is a 350 bed not-for-profit skilled nursing facility located on the campus of Stony Brook University. The dedicated staff at LISVH stands ready to provide short term rehabilitation, skilled nursing care and adult day health care to the 250,000 veterans who reside on Long Island.

The Veterans Home is a major teaching affiliate of Stony Brook Medicine, and continues to be one of the only nursing homes in the country that is fully integrated into the health and educational mission of a major teaching and research university. This affiliation enables the Home to offer Long Island's veterans access to the New York metropolitan region's best health care professionals and most advanced medical technology



Pictured L-R: Fred Sganga, Executive Director; Cmdr. Carlo Giordano; Past Cmdr. Donna Boyle; Jonathan Spier, Deputy Executive Director; and Daniel Walker, son of our late member Herb Walker.

A Poem From Mary

IMPATIENCE WITH INERTIA

For Doug

I have grown impatient
With people who are not revolutionaries
Those that adhere to the status quo
And see no need to change the world

I have grown weary of those
Who do not classify themselves as dreamers
But rather define themselves as realists
And unable to solve the world's inequalities

I will not surround myself with the pragmatists
But rather I must adhere to those who are blazing optimists
Ready to shake up the universe



By Mary Flatley

Published in The Long Island Quarterly
Winter 2024-2025

High School Oratorical Contest

Each year, we sponsor three students from St. Pius V School in Melville to participate in the Suffolk County American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

The contestants consistently prove to be among the best, not just in Suffolk County but throughout the New York Metropolitan Area.

This year, our standout contestant was Laura Williams from St. Pius V who placed first in the Suffolk County Contest, first in the 10th Division contest, and second in the Zone 2 contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students.

Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship



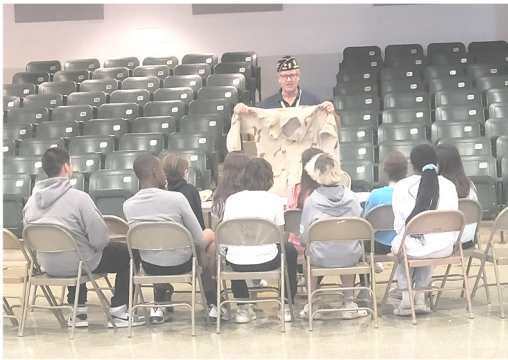
Oratorical Chairman Charlie Armstrong with Laura Williams of St. Pius V School in Melville

Veterans In the Classroom 2024

The mission of Veterans in the Classroom is to teach and inform. We are here to introduce students and teachers to who we are, what we did, and the significance of the contributions veterans have made to our country.

Every year, the men and women of Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 respond to the requests of our local schools and organizations to speak with them, sharing their stories of what it means to be a veteran now and what it meant in the past.

This year, our friends and supporters at Old Fields Middle School in Greenlawn invited us to return and speak to their eighth-grade classes. There has been a change of guard within the school. Ms. Sandra Buscemi, our long-time school coordinator, has retired, and we thank her for her years of service. Rob Hendrick, the assistant principal, has taken over the reins of the



George Wright for generously offering their time and support.

They all reported a significant interaction with the students and found their time very rewarding. The only regret of the day was that they wished they had more



program. This year, Mr. Hendrick asked if we could change the format of how we operated in the school. In the past, we were asked to complete 12 assignments in a day, one veteran to each class. This year, we were asked to provide four speakers over six periods in the auditorium. Multiple classes were brought in, divided between the speakers, and then rotated around the room. The idea is to increase the students' exposure to a more diverse picture of what veterans did in different services and occupational systems.

The change increased our need to fill 24 assignments in a day. Previously, I needed 6 to 8 volunteers to cover the day comfortably. This year, it will take 10 to 12. I called for volunteers, and the Legionnaires of Post 1244 responded amicably and enthusiastically. I would like to thank Chris Argento, Donna Boyle, Bob Browne, Carlo Giordano, Carl Grasso, Alex Janow, Rich Klein, Mike Williams, and

time to share their experiences with the students.

The Veterans in the Classroom project aims to increase participation from school districts this spring. Since the beginning of COVID-19, the number of events we attend has decreased, a trend I wish to continue. As General McArthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." It may seem inappropriate to disagree with a general, but, 'Yes, Doug, we do die, but it is the job of Veterans in the Classroom that we do not fade away.

Happy New Year to all. And to our veterans, "Welcome Home."

Ed Hayde

**Coordinator for Veterans in the Classroom
Adjutant, American Legion Post 1244**

American Legion Riders



Springtime has come upon us. Riders of Post 1244 began defrosting their bikes and are ready to ride. We've been lucky with very little snow this year, so we do what we do.

The Kings Park St. Patrick's Day Parade kicked off the season as the first parade. Our Riders were able to bring many smiles to all who attended, distributing about 400 St. Patrick's bead necklaces. Of course, green. Steve came down the shoulder of the road, giving a new meaning to the sound of a thundering exhaust. The people loved the loud exhaust and were screaming for more, and he was only too happy to oblige. We were just happy he didn't blow up his engine.

The following weekend was the Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade. I think it is one of the largest parades on Long Island. We escorted three military trucks and two presidential limousines that followed us in the parade.

The Riders ride to the Long Island City Veterans Home every month or two. This is always a worthwhile ride. We have been partnering with a local church,

which makes it much more special by providing lunch for all to enjoy. With the help from Operation Enduring Care, John always seems to be able to come up with items these Veterans so badly need. I don't know how John does it, but he always seems to find what we can't seem to find. We cannot thank him enough... Every ride we make to the Veterans' home always make a few new friends who love to share their stories with us.

Our Riders are always looking for new Post members and also new Riders. If you know anyone who rides a motorcycle, please have them attend a meeting and contact us. We have been asking Vinny to join, but you know Vinny; he hasn't decided what he's going to do when he grows up.

With the nice weather on its way, please be mindful of motorcycles on the road. Here on Long Island, we have so many drivers who always seem to be in a rush to go nowhere.

Bruce Blanco
President

American Legion Riders
Greenlawn Post 1244

American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 Officers Installed for 2025



The newly elected officers of American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 were installed at our January post meeting. Pictured L-R are: Bruce Blanco, President; Angus Kennedy, Sons Commander, Eric Lenio, Secretary; Steve Scinta, 1st Vice Cmdr. and ALR member; Craig Lanigan, Treasurer; Brian Gerken, Sgt. At Arms; Bill Bartasek, Road Captain and Carlo Giordano, Post 1244 Commander. Not pictured: Vic Ramondetta, Road Captain.



Spotlight on the Community

Tom Donnelly Suffolk County Legislator District 17



Q. Prior to your entering public service, what was your background and experience in the private sector?

A. I am a 1984 graduate of Deer Park High School. I became a volunteer

fireman at the age of 18. I recently celebrated my fortieth anniversary as a volunteer fireman.

I spent three years as a policeman in the New York City Police Department. Following that I worked for twenty-nine years as a fireman in the New York City Fire Department. My father Raymond was a World War II Veteran and a retired Lieutenant with the New York City Fire Department.

Q. What made you decide to run for the Babylon Town Board?

A. I was working as a local Fire Commissioner in the Town of Babylon. I was a soccer coach and secretary for a local soccer club. Steve Bellone approached me and asked me if I would like to run for elected office. I felt I could effectively serve in a bipartisan manner as a public servant.

Q. How do you see yourself helping Veterans in the Suffolk County Legislature?

A. I see myself helping Veterans when they have individual needs and issues such as Medicare and Medicaid concerns. I want to assist Veterans when they have questions as to the benefits they are entitled to.

My Godfather was a Combat Marine Veteran in Vietnam. I have other cousins who are Vietnam Veterans. It was an honor and privilege to serve with Vietnam Veterans as a fireman in the New York City Fire Department. I have seen that sometimes the Vietnam Veterans were not treated well and I want to remedy that situation.

Q. What are your goals for your constituents as a Suffolk County Legislator?

I consider myself to be a non-political elected official. I work across the aisle to solve problems. I am a life-long public servant. I look to continue to serve my residents with dedication.

By Mary Flatley

Veterans Testimonial Project

Be a part of your community's rich history. Share your military experiences with future generations. We are looking for U.S. veterans to share their memories and stories. All interviews will be recorded and added to the library's collection and archived with the Veteran's History Project at the Library of Congress.

To participate in this important initiative, call our librarian, Joe Brown, at 631-498-1221 or email jbrown@hhhlibrary.org

Charlie's Corner

"Hey, Air Force!"

This Fall morning was unusually warm and sunny, a perfect day for one of "C&D's Great Adventures". Today seemed like a water day to us, so we needed to choose from Northport Pier, Montauk State Park, Jones Beach, Robert Moses Beach or Captree State Park for our visit. After a brief discussion, Robert Moses got the nod.

The wind, and sun, and surf could not have been more accommodating as we sat on our usual bench on the boardwalk. Arm in arm we simply enjoyed the moments discussing things that two people that have been in love for the better part of a half century discuss. There were only a few others around; a woman riding her folding bike in loop as if in a velodrome, a squatty woman passing our bench on the way to the sand, one or 2 male walkers and a couple of young women taking selfies on the beach.

From the bench, I noticed a couple walking our way from the parking lot. He was hobbling a bit, wearing drab-green cargo pants, a worn sweater and a backwards ball cap. She was also shabbily dressed with straggly brown hair. They both looked like they had seen better days. He nodded as they walked past us and headed down the boardwalk. That's when I noticed he was wearing an Air Force cap. Instinctively, I yelled to him.... "Hey Air Force!" They both turned and faced us with quizzical looks on their faces. I got up from the bench and gave him one of my special stars, the ones I cut out of retired American flags and present to those that I think would appreciate one. He read the inscription that accompanied the star in the small plastic bag, then flipped it over to see the star. He put out his hand and

we shook. He thanked me. He and his girl then proceeded to walk down the boardwalk, as me and my girl kept enjoying the weather and watching the carefree seagulls fly effortlessly around us.



A while later, the couple headed back our way and approached our bench. As I stood up, my Air Force Brother once again shook my hand and this time, also embraced me, saying that he really appreciated that little star and that it made his day. I noticed that the woman was crying. She said the star meant something special to her also as her veteran cousin had recently died. Before they headed back to the parking lot, I gave her a star also.

I told Diane on a couple of occasions that morning that I felt extremely calm, and at peace. I had no idea why....until we met that weathered couple. We chose the right beach, on the right day, at the right time to serendipitously bring some joy into the lives of two perfect strangers, on a day that they may have needed us to be there the most. It was meant to be. God works in strange ways.....

Charlie Tritto
Past Post Chaplain
American Legion Post 1244



If you have an E Mail account and are not receiving Our weekly **Veterans News** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in.

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Vice Commander's Corner



Greetings, Legionnaires!

As the snow season fades away and the crocuses bloom, we reflect on our mission of serving our veterans, community, and country. Spring is a time of renewal and increased activity, bringing with it

opportunities to reconnect, contribute, and stay engaged.

With warmer weather, people become more active, whether it be playing baseball, soccer, or simply tending to their yards. This also means more pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, and motorcyclists sharing the roads. I urge all drivers to be extra vigilant and mindful of those around them to ensure a safe season for everyone.

Memorial Day is just around the bend, and we have much to look forward to. Our annual parade will be a time to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we encourage all members and the community to participate. Following the parade, we will gather for our

traditional post BBQ, an opportunity to enjoy camaraderie, share stories, and reflect on our shared mission.

As we continue our work, I encourage all members to help grow our ranks by reaching out to potential new members. The American Legion is built on the strength of its people, and by inviting fellow veterans to join, we ensure that our mission of service and support carries on for generations to come. Whether through recruitment, volunteering, or simply attending events, every member plays a vital role in our success.

Let us embrace the spirit of spring by continuing our commitment to service and remembrance. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events.

For God and Country

Stephen Scinta

Stephen Scinta

Vice Commander Greenlawn Post 1244

Why Your Membership Matters

The American Legion stands as a beacon of inclusivity and camaraderie, offering a welcoming embrace to veterans and their families from all walks of life. Serving as more than just a gathering place, it fosters a sense of belonging and understanding within the veteran community, transcending differences, and uniting individuals under a shared bond of service. Legionnaires and their family members can also be eligible for a myriad of financial grants during times of financial hardship, natural disasters, or even for educational scholarships.

A Final Salute



Eugene Leavy

March 27, 2025



Their sense of duty continues to preserve our past, safeguard our present, and sustain our future.

Commander's Call



Greetings Legionnaires, Let's start with Happy 106th Birthday to the American Legion and welcome to spring. The weather is getting warmer, and the trees and plants are beginning to bloom. It's a wonderful season.

And for the members of Post 1244, it's the start of a busy season. I look forward to all the events that we attend, such as holidays, parades, BBQs, and fundraisers. Last year, we did very well raising money

for the many Veteran programs we contribute to. I hope that we can do better this year as well.

I am very pleased with the lineup of officers for this coming year; together we make a great team to represent the members of our post. Since spring is like a new beginning, let's not forget to reenergize our efforts to recruit new members. Also, let's not forget to have fun and great camaraderie throughout the year.

Carlo Giordano

Post Commander

631-487-4776

msgtlegion@gmail.com

A Look Back In Time

Pride, community, and tradition filled Walt Whitman High School's Performing Arts Center as the South Huntington School District marked its 100th anniversary on December 10, 2024. The evening featured student performances, historical displays, memorabilia, and a birthday cake.

The event honored the many generations of students, teachers, administrators, board members, and families who've contributed to making South Huntington a top-rated school district over the past century.

Among those participating was Post Commander Carlo Giordano, who led the gathering in The Pledge of Allegiance. Carlo was a member of Walt Whitman High School Class of 1977.

After high school, Carlo Giordano joined the Navy and received training in the fields of aircraft hydraulics and airframes. Upon completing his training, Carlo was



Carlo Giordano Leading the Pledge of Allegiance

assigned to Attack Squadron 176 and served aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Independence. During his dedicated service, he attained the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer and was responsible for nine airmen and the flight readiness of fifteen A-6 aircraft.

After his distinguished military service, Carlo worked for Grumman Aerospace and the South Huntington School District. He has over 35

years of service to the district, having served as the Chief Custodian at Walt Whitman High School.

Carlo has always felt a profound responsibility for our country. In 1996, he joined the 106th Combat Rescue Wing of the Air National Guard. While serving with the Guard, he participated in Operation Noble Eagle at Ground Zero, Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He retired as Master Sergeant and is currently commander of American Legion Post 1244.

Greenlawn Bugle Ideas Welcome



Do you have an idea for our newsletter?

Please contact Bob Santo at:
post1244@verizon.net
or 516-458-7881

To subscribe to our weekly email: "Veterans News" Contact Bob at the email above. Keep up with what is going on at your post.

Book Drive for Northport VA

We are looking for donations of appropriate books to fill the bookshelves in the waiting rooms at the Northport VA Medical Center.

Hardback books or paperbacks in good condition are preferred. No magazines.

We can also use puzzles/board games and DVD's.

Contact Sean Delle 631-208-7004.

Members please bring your books to our next monthly meeting, or call Sean to arrange a pickup if you cannot attend.

2025 Flag Drop Box Schedule American Legion - Greenlawn Post 1244

Public Libraries

January 2 - February 3. Half Hollow Hills, Dix Hills

February 3 - March 3. Half Hollow Hills, Melville

March 3 - April 1. Northport

April 1 - May 1. East Northport

May 1 - July 1. South Huntington

July 1 - Aug 1. Huntington - Huntington Station Branch

Aug 1 - Sept 2. Huntington - Main Branch

Sept 2 - Oct 1. Harborfields

Elwood . Oct 1 - Nov 3

Commack - Nov 3 - Dec 1

Cold Spring Harbor -Dec 1 - Jan 2

- Any flags dropped off at the libraries when the Flag Drop Box is not present will be sent to the South Huntington Public Library for Collection.
- The Northport American Legion Post 694 also has a drop box year round at 7 Woodside Avenue, Northport.

THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher Bob Santo

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TO OUR VETERANS
& THEIR FAMILIES



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*Thank you for your
service to our great
nation and for the
sacrifices you and your
family make to protect
our freedom.*

Councilwoman Brooke A.
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Andre Sorrentino Superintendent of Highways Town of Huntington



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Thank you to all our Veterans
for Serving our Country and Community



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We thank them for their dedicated service
and sacrifice for our Country.**



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**Suffolk County Legislator
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Thank you for your service!

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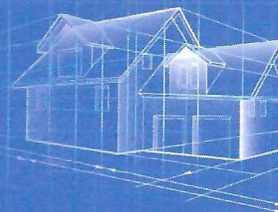
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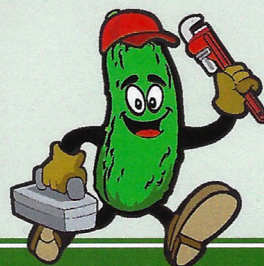
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