

JUDGE COLEMAN REVIEWS NEWSDAY ARTICLE

On Sunday, November 15th, 2004, Long Island Newsday ran a thousand word article about the grease disposal problem in Suffolk County. The piece, by Staff Writer, Dan Fagin, was essentially an outline of many of the issues swirling about this very complicated situation. However, it did not delve into, or even touch on all the important points. Having said that, we should understand that anything that raises public awareness of a serious problem benefits all of us who live and operate businesses on Long Island.

The reaction I'm getting from the membership is mixed. Some think that the article was fair in its presentation of the facts and the opinions of various LILWA representatives, member companies, county officials and other interested parties, while others felt that the public's perception was likely to be that many, if not most, cesspool service companies engage in illegal dumping and that the industry, in general, had been given a black eye.

My own feeling is that we have big shoulders and as long we're not involved in any wrongdoing, we can stand the scrutiny. It's time that the public was made aware of this very serious problem and the sooner people understand the consequences, the sooner industry and government will begin working together, in earnest, to solve it. I applaud Mr. Fagin and Newsday for shedding some much-needed light on the grease problem