

• BMH started a 15.4 million expansion program in 1974. The front two story building was expanded to four stories and three intensive care units were added. This added 134 beds to bring the capacity to a total of 350 beds. This new additions opened November 10, 1974.

• The new Holtsville Park Pool opened July 20, 1974.

• The Masonic Temple building on West Main Street became a total fire loss on November 7, 1974. Stanley's Furniture Store on East Main Street, which burned at the same time, also became a total loss.

• The Suffolk Health Center opened on October 1, 1974 in the former Hills Supermarket building on East Main Street.

• The Grant store on East Main Street closed in December, 1975 and the Grant store on Hewlett Avenue in East Patchogue closed in February, 1976.

• The Fire Island Ocean Beaches had to be closed for periods of time in 1976 because of garbage washing up onto the shoreline, caused by careless dumping of New York City garbage from barges.

• Hurricane *Belle* struck Long Island on Monday, August 9, 1976, causing extensive damage, flooding and power outages.

• A \$1.5 million fire damaged the Leitner Pontiac Agency on Medford Avenue, December 27, 1976.

• Our area recorded the coldest winter in 50 years during the winter of 1976- 77. The Great South Bay froze over and many cars could be seen driving on the ice of the bay.

• The south shore of Long Island had an 18 inch snowfall on January 19, 1978 and the blizzard of 1978 dumped another 25 inches of snow over a 36 hour period February 5-6 1978.

• A fire destroyed the 55 year old Rialto Theater on South Ocean Avenue February 16, 1978.

• The YMCA Norman Roe Family Center on Buckley Road opened on Sunday, October 15, 1978. The \$850,000 center offered an olympic size pool.

• The Patchogue Elevated Parking Garage on Lake Street opened the upper level on Friday, December 16, 1978.

• A dangerous fire developed on the premises of the Glover Bottle Gas Company on Route 112 in North Patchogue. The fire sent small gas containers with bomb- like explosions high into the air. A 1.2 mile area had to be evacuated because the fire threatened to explode a nearby 10,000 gallon tank. Heroic efforts of the fire departments brought the fire under control.

• In April 1979 St. Joseph's College purchased the Seton Hall High School on Roe Boulevard with plans to start operations in September, 1979.