



League of Women Voters of Smithtown Township

VOTER

The LWV is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

December 2007

website: <http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/smithtown.htm>

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LWV Smithtown Holiday Party

Thursday, December 6, 2007

6:30 pm at the Mills Pond House

Rt. 25A, St. James NY

Guest Speaker:

Bill Pierce, Storyteller

*Raffle prizes will include:
gift baskets and holiday plants*

Raffle books are included in this December issue of the VOTER

***Please mail donation (payable to LWV-Smithtown) and filled-out books ***

to Mary Zopf, 21 Greene Drive, Commack, NY 11725

Please bring some type of food to share:

appetizers, finger foods, desserts, drinks, etc.

RSVP and details of what you will bring

to Marie Manginelli 265-1791 before Dec. 3

LWV Smithtown board members are requested
to arrive at 5:30pm for a short board meeting,
and to help set up for the holiday gathering.



President's Message

The North Suffolk Garden Club extended an invitation to the LWV of Smithtown to attend their recent meeting with guest speaker Robert DeLuca of the Group for the East End. His subject was water on Long Island, in general, Shelter Island in particular. The following is a brief summary of his presentation.

Long Island receives approximately forty five inches of rain each year. Rainfall, snow and melted ice are the only source water on the island. Slightly over half of this water reaches the underground aquifers, which are our only source of water. The remainder flows into the surface water or as runoff from storm drains. This water makes its way to the Long Island Sound, the various bays and the Atlantic Ocean.

The bedrock is very deep under the ground. There are a number of layers above the bedrock. The uppermost level is the Glacial Aquifer, next is a layer of Raritan Clay, then the Magothy Aquifer, more clay, the Lloyd Aquifer and finally the bedrock. We get most of our water from the Magothy Aquifer. Most home wells get their water from the Glacial Aquifer. It takes many years for the rain water to filter through the various levels.

Use of pesticides, fertilizer, septic systems, disposal of hazardous wastes all lead to contamination of the upper layer. Excessive use of water from the upper layers depletes the stored water and leads to salt water intrusion into the drinking water supply. The water from private wells should be tested on a regular basis to insure that they have not been contaminated. Water from the Magothy Aquifer that has been treated by the various water companies on the island is safe.

Individuals can protect the water supply by paving as little as possible around their homes. Homeowners should use as organic fertilizers and limit the use of pesticides. About fifty percent of the water used by homeowners is for irrigation. Watering should not be done in the mid day when the sun evaporates a great deal of the water.

Long Islanders must be made aware that we live over our water supply. It is the responsibility of those who live over the water supply to take all measures to insure that the supply remains safe and plentiful enough to sustain a viable way of life on the Island.

Joyce Rosenthal

The EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) will be holding a public meeting at Danford's on the Sound on November 27, 2007 between 1-4 pm. The meeting is to prepare a Scope for a Problematic Environmental Impact Statement Long Island Sound. The EIS will "evaluate the overall impacts of alternatives identified in the development of a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for dredged material from private projects greater than 25,000 cubic yards and federal projects in Long Island Sound."

STAC
Smithtown Township Arts Council



Mills Pond House
660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780
631-862-6575 fax 631-862-8730

The League of Women Voters of Smithtown thanks Allison J. Cruz, Executive Director and the staff of the Smithtown Township Arts Council/ Mills Pond House Gallery for its support of the League.

*We encourage all Town Residents to support the Arts Council, participate in its cultural programs, and visit the historic Mills Pond House in St. James.
For info: www.stacarts.org.*

**SMITHTOWN
TOWNSHIP**

**REACH
FOR
THE
ARTS**
**A
R
T
S
COUNCIL**

Immigration– the facts behind the headlines

I know that I speak for many, if not all, of us when I say that a major motivation for joining the League is to have an opportunity to become informed, as well as to join in discussions about, the issues of our time.

LWVUS has recently launched a two year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. We all may check the LWVUS website for referrals to resources for information.

I attended an all day conference at Hofstra Law School on November 9th devoted to exploring "Local Dimensions of Immigration: Challenges and Opportunities in our changing communities" and came away enriched.

Sondra Irvine

League of Women Voters of Smithtown members have been invited to attend a meeting of the Huntington League on Wednesday November 28th 1-3 pm at the Dolan Center, 284 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to have access to some facts as we hear Prof. Luis Valenzuela report on an Adelphi University Study: "Economic Impact of Immigration on Long Island."

Town Board Meeting

November 13, 2007

Supervisor Vecchio was absent for the morning meeting, which was going to have unexpected consequences in the afternoon meeting. Councilwoman Joanne Gray questioned the payment of \$42,000 for renovation of the performance trailer at Hoyt Farm and felt it would be more economical to purchase a new bandshell.

At the end of the brief morning session Dan Ryan, the Highway Superintendent, asked permission to address the board. He cited his accomplishments the two years he has been in office, including prompt pickup of leaf bags and brush left at the curb and better communication with the department. He then asked the board's help for a crisis in Smithtown - the median age of the roads in Smithtown is 40 years. He feels he cannot put enough resources into paving roads and said that the increase that the department will get in the new budget will be eaten up by increased costs. The new budget reduces most of the overtime and he said it will be impossible to do all the work because of lower manpower. He asked to return the overtime level to last years budget, keep the snow removal the same as last years, and hire a professional outfit at a cost of about \$100,000 to raw up an outside long range comprehensive data plan for the department, instead of just planning from year to year. Gray asked how many roads will be paved in 2008 and Ryan said raising oil costs will impact the program and asked for an additional two million dollars. Councilman Edward Wehrheim asked Ryan why he did not appear at the public hearing for the budget and he answered that he thought that was for the public, not department heads. Wehrheim replied it was a lot to look over by the budget vote at 2:00

In the afternoon session when the time came for the budget vote Councilmen Thomas McCarthy and Wehrheim voted yes on the budget, Gray voted no and Councilwoman Patricia Biancaniello abstained, therefore the budget did not pass. (As I understand it if no budget is adopted by November 20, the supervisor's preliminary budget is automatically adopted).

In the public speaking portion of the meeting the three speakers all focused on the widening of Edgewood Ave. and whether Dr.Adler had granted an easement to the town for this. Lenore Cernitz accused Biancaniello of lying by saying the town had been given this easement but apologized when Biancaniello gave a date when it was granted and said she resented the implication. Don Cantwell spoke next on the necessity of a traffic study before the widening took place and asked for a public hearing on this.

Mary Zopf, Observer

From LWVUS

League Urges Congress to Support Stronger Environmental Standards (NEW)

The League urged the House and Senate this week to support both fuel economy and renewable electricity standards. The League believes that the two provisions, together, should form energy legislation in this Congress.

November 15, 2007

TO: Members of the Senate and House of Representatives

FROM: Mary G. Wilson, President

RE: Energy Legislation and Global Climate Change

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support the fuel economy standards for motor vehicles passed by the Senate and the renewable electricity standards enacted by the House. These two provisions, adopted in either house earlier in the year, should form the basis of energy legislation in this Congress. Together they would constitute a significant down payment on the changes needed to curtail global warming.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts. Moreover, U.S. energy policy needs to be put on a new footing. Inefficient and excessive energy consumption is polluting our air, undermining our economic competitiveness and threatening our national security.

This summer, the Senate adopted corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards for motor vehicles that will help bring the industry into the 21st Century. The legislation increases fuel economy standards to 35 mpg by 2020, the first significant increase in decades. CAFE standards have demonstrated their effectiveness, both in cutting dependence on oil imports and reducing consumer costs. These new standards promise to make a substantial contribution to protecting against global climate change. American industry has shown its ability to adapt and change; these standards are necessary for environmental protection and economic competitiveness.

The House energy bill requires that 15 percent of our country's electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020. Wind, solar, or other renewable power sources are key to curbing global warming, and the renewable electricity standards (RES) ensure an orderly transition to their use.

The Senate-passed CAFE standards and the House-passed RES standards are the two essential building blocks for a responsible energy policy that makes significant reductions in the pollutants that cause global warming and cuts U.S. dependence on fossil fuels. We urge you to vote for the inclusion of both provisions in any energy legislation.

Great Books Mentioning the League!

Several recent books highlight the contributions of League members around the country! If you're looking for a special holiday gift, or just a good read, be sure to ask about these titles at your local bookstore or library:

Soul of a Citizen by Paul Rogat Loeb

Getting a Grip by Frances Moore Lappe

The Next Form of Democracy by Matt Leighninger

'Tis the Season.... To Share the Gift of LWV Membership Give someone you care about the chance to make a difference in their community by becoming a member of LWV.

JOURNEY TRAVEL & EVENTS

Marie Roman Sesti

Formerly Aventura Travel

631-360-3600

651-724-9085 (Res)

Fax: 631-360-3682

106 E. Main Street
Smithtown, NY 11787
e-mail: journeyaa@aol.com



532 Rte. 25A
(North Country Rd.)
St. James, NY 11780
631.862.6660

Salon Dee La Rosa

www.salondealarosa.com
Email: info@salondealarosa.com

Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Regular meeting: Tuesday

December 18, 2007

Main Library at 7pm

Smithtown Town Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday: Dec. 4
Smithtown Town Hall
Second Floor Board Room

9:30 am work session
2:00 pm regular meeting

Thursdays: Nov. 29, Dec. 20
Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Citizen Center
located at 420 Middle Country Road,
Smithtown, NY.

7:00 pm regular meeting

League of Women Voters of Smithtown

Membership Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Even if you do not have time for active participation, your membership alone will strengthen our voice.

Individual Membership	\$50.00
Household (2 at same address)	70.00
Student Membership	20.00
Additional Contribution	_____
Total	\$_____

Make checks payable to LWV of Smithtown and mail to:

LWV of Smithtown
c/o Mary Zopf
21 Greene Drive
Commack, NY 11725

*Please note:
Additional tax-deductible donations to the League beyond the dues amount may be made by writing a separate check to "LWVNYS Education Foundation"*



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF SMITHTOWN**

**322 River Road
St. James, NY 11780**

Address Correction Requested

**POSTMASTER:
DATED MAIL-
Please Rush!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2007

Wed..	Nov. 28	Immigration– the facts behind the headlines, LWV Huntington, Dolan Center 1-3pm
Wed..	Nov. 28	UN Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World, NYC
Thurs.	Nov. 29	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm

December 2007

Tues.	Dec. 4	Town Board Meetings, 9:30 am-Work Session; 2 pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Thurs.	Dec. 6	LWV Smithtown Holiday Party, Mills Pond House, 6:30pm (board mtg 5:30pm)
Wed.	Dec. 12	LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 10:00am
Tues.	Dec. 18	Library Board of Trustees Meeting, Main Library, 7 pm
Thurs.	Dec. 20	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm