



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

November 2007

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

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VACANCIES:

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Election Day: Tuesday November 6, 2007

Polls Open 6am to 9pm.

Ballot Details inside this issue of the Voter

How is Long Island's Marine Environment Being Affected by Climate Change?

Join LWV Smithtown
and the Smithtown Library for a talk by **William Wise**
Director, Living Marine Resources Institute of the Marine Sciences
Research Center, Stony Brook University.

Wednesday October 24 at 7pm
Smithtown Main Library

Climate change has and will continue to impact many of the earth's environments for the foreseeable future, including the oceans. This talk will describe the extent to which Long Island's marine environment is sensitive to climate change, review the evidence that climate related changes are presently occurring in local waters, e.g. relative trends in distribution and abundance of certain marine species and discuss what the future may hold in this matter.

The next LWV Smithtown /Smithtown Library talk is scheduled for
Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7pm
Topic: What the NYS Attorney General's Office Can Do For You

President's Message

The past two months have been extremely productive for the LWV of Smithtown. We began by having Robert Lusak and others from the Smithtown Library explain the Library Expansion Bond Proposition. The proposition was voted down at the October 9th Library vote. The budget was passed and the three incumbent trustees were all re-elected.




The Candidates forum for the Republican Primary was ably moderated by Libby Hubbard of the LWV of Huntington. She was assisted by Judie Gorenstein also of LWV of Huntington as time keeper. Garnet Marshall and Mary Zopf did an excellent job of vetting the questions from the floor. Trudy Gaus helped collect the question cards. Lisa Scott made the arrangements to get the venue. We were pleased to have Lenore Cernitz tape the event and place it on cable channel 18.

The following week in cooperation with the Smithtown Township Arts Council, our fun fundraising event Trash or Treasure was an overwhelming success. The Mills Pond House was filled to capacity with members of both organizations and a great number of unaffiliated people. Refreshments were served throughout the evening, while people brought their items to be appraised by Ann and Ralph Mondrone and their associates of North Shore Antiques. June Carlson, our fundraising chair brought members of the two organizations together to plan the event. Helen Williams, Elena Quintana, and Patti Rinschler from the Arts Council, June Carlson, Lisa Scott, Mary Zopf and I from the LWV worked together to make the evening a success. Marie Manginelli helped collect and sell tickets at the Mills Pond House, and Sara Martucci sold raffle tickets and brought home-baked cookies. A good and profitable time was had by all.

Sunday September 16th we had a table at Heritage Day. Heritage is an event held by the Smithtown Historical Society. It is always a well attended enjoyable day. We again combined our efforts with other organizations. The Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, The Smithtown Garden club and the LWV of Smithtown had three tables in a row in a prominent location on the Historical Society grounds. Ruth Ann Baker, Stella Baker, Sue Ann Casselli, Joan Ferrara, Trudy Gaus, Sara Martucci, Judy Scheinfeld, and I all helped as necessary to cover the three tables

Joyce Rosenthal

LWV Smithtown and the Greater Smithtown Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a very successful candidates' meeting on Thursday, October 18 at the Brush Barn. Over 60 Chamber members enjoyed lunch and heard from candidates for the Smithtown Town Council, as well as for the 12th and 13th Suffolk County Legislative Districts. Lisa Scott was moderator, Joyce Rosenthal was time-keeper, and Mary Zopf and Stella Baker assisted.

 <p>STAC Smithtown Township Arts Council</p>  <p>Mills Pond House 660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780 631-862-6575 fax 631-862-8730</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>For info: www.stacarts.org.</p>	 <p>SMITHTOWN TOWNSHIP ARTS COUNCIL</p> <p>REACH FOR THE ARTS</p>
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Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Polls are open from 6am to 9pm

In Smithtown voters will be selecting from the following list of candidates. (This list may not be complete, please review the sample ballot at your local polling place for the full list of offices and candidates.)

Smithtown Candidates List

Party abbreviations: I- Independence
C-Conservative R-Republican
D- Democratic WF-Working Families

County Executive (4 year term)
Steve Levy C D I R WF

Family Court Judge (10 year term)
Theresa Whelan C D I R WF

Council, Town of Smithtown
Vote for two (4 year term)
Thomas P. Cleere D WF
Bruce Jay Ettenberg D WF
Robert J Creighton C I R
Edward R. Wertheim C I R

Receiver of Taxes, Town of Smithtown
(4 year term)
Deanna Varricchio C I R

County Legislator (2 year term)

12th Legislative District
John M. Kennedy Jr. D R WF
Vincent Trimarco C I

13th Legislative District
William J. Turley D
Lynne C. Nowick C I R WF

There are two propositions on this year's ballot:

Statewide:

Amendment to Article 14, section 1 of the Constitution, in relation to the use of forest preserve lands for wells for a municipal water supply in the hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County.

The proposed amendment would allow the State to convey one acre of forest preserve land to the town of Long Lake for public use as the site for drinking water wells and necessary related equipment for the municipal water supply for the hamlet of Raquette Lake. In exchange, the State would receive at least twelve acres of land that is at least equal in value to the land conveyed to Long Lake. The land the State receives would be incorporated into the forest preserve. The Raquette Lake reservoir would be abandoned as a source of drinking water supply. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

What will this amendment do if approved?

This amendment will make constitutional an action that has, in fact, already taken place. In 2004, the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) gave extraordinary permission to the town of Long Lake to drill wells on Adirondack forest preserve lands, an action that requires a constitutional amendment.

LWVSC Supports Ballot Proposition Extending 1/4% Tax for Drinking Water and Environmental Protection

The LWVNYS supports a proactive role for the state in conserving natural resources and containing sprawl. We support legislation that will provide regional land use planning, enhance urban neighborhoods, and protect agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas.

Therefore, the LWV of Suffolk County supports this current proposition which extends an existing law accelerating the Suffolk County 1/4% drinking water protection for environmental protection from Dec. 31, 2013 to Nov. 31, 2030.

Take a Friend To Vote! Why go alone when you can take a friend of loved one to vote!

Avoid the crowds- if you can, go to the polls during off hours- 10-11:30am and 1:30-3:30pm.

Smithtown Library

The Smithtown Library Board announced the tally of the October 9th budget election.

Annual Budget: For... 51.3% Against... 48.7%

Expansion Bond: For... 48.4% Against... 51.6%

Voters at the Smithtown Library and Kings Park Library defeated both the budget and the bond issues by substantial margins. Over time we will receive detailed analyses of voter behavior. In the meantime, the board needs to deal with urgent building repair issues and current book purchases. These election results stunned most Smithtown readers, in view of the common fact that none of the Town's libraries meet the state minimal building and collection requirements.

All current board members were retained in their positions. The board meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Smithtown Main Library.

Beth Verdicchio, Observer

An Afternoon at the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington

This fall the LWV of Huntington has initiated a new activity: an afternoon at the Cinema Arts. League members have been busy registering voters, planning Meet the Candidates' Nights, educating the public re league issues, and speaking with legislators. We work hard and it was decided that we need time to relax.

The Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington offers a venue where we could not only see good movies, but also enjoy good food and conversation at their cafe. In September, we saw *The 11th Hour* and in October, *The Jane Austen Book Club*. In order to make it easier for members to plan ahead, we have decided that in the future we will plan for this excursion to be held on the second Thursday of the month. The directors of the Cinema are allowing our members to pay only \$5.00 for the movie. We will choose the film we will be seeing at the beginning of each month. The actual times for the movie will vary but will usually be around 2:00. Depending on the time of the movie, we can meet before to have lunch and socialize or after for a snack and discussion.

All league members and their friends are invited to attend. For more information, call Judie Gorenstein at 631 491-3177.

The Huntington LWV cordially invites Smithtown LWV members and friends to join them!

Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Regular meeting: Tuesdays-
October 23 and November 20

Main Library at 7pm

Nissequogue River State Park

At this month's meeting of the Regional Planning Authority's Nissequogue River Watershed Study Committee, Water Quality and Land Use Subcommittees, it was decided by Consensus to recommend to NYS DEC, Suffolk County, Town of Smithtown, several in depth studies and action plans, all geared toward protection of the Watershed in various needed aspects, eg.:

(a) enhance water quality in the river by quality monitoring & data collection, reduce the impact of storm water pollution on the river, ensure adequate maintenance of septic systems, determine if extensive pond/lake eutrophication is occurring within the watershed, reduce nitrogen loading from fertilizers by 50%

(b) protect and restore coldwater fisheries and habitat

© promote individual property owner conservation of open space and protection of habitat

(d) study and address the high groundwater problem where it exists.

Sondra Irvine

Long Island's Homeless

On October 12th I attended an all day conference at Touro Law School focused on the needs of Long Island's Homeless. This was the 19th annual conference of the Nassau/Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless. The many different agencies who work to solve problems and provide services are able to use this yearly conference to network and coordinate their efforts. An overwhelming proportion of the homeless on Long Island (and I believe in other areas as well) are families with children. Mental illness and/or substance abuse complicates some cases, as does unemployment. However, it is a fact that those working full time, earning minimum wage, do not earn enough to pay Long Island rent and have enough left to buy food or any other necessities.

Sondra Irvine

For more details about this conference, see the Oct. 18 issues of the Times of Smithtown.

Smithtown Town Board **Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday: Nov. 13
Smithtown Town Hall
Second Floor Board Room

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

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

7:00 pm regular meeting

A public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at the Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Center, 420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown, New York, to consider the Town of Smithtown 2008 Preliminary Budget.

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

October 2007

Tues. Oct. 23 Library Board of Trustees Meeting, Smithtown Main Library, 7 pm
Wed. Oct. 24 Climate Change, Smithtown Main Library, 7pm
Thurs. Oct. 25 Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm

November 2007

Thurs. Nov. 1 Public Hearing on Town of Smithtown Preliminary Budget,
Senior Citizens Center, 7pm
Mon. Nov. 6 LWW Smithtown Board Meeting, Mills Pond House, 7pm
Tues. Nov. 6 Election Day Polls Open 6am—9pm
Sun. Nov. 11 LWVSC Post Election Brunch, Bellport Country Club, 10:30am—1:30pm
Tues. Nov. 13 Town Board Meetings, 9:30 am-Work Session; 2 pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Wed. Nov. 14 LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 10:00am
Wed. Nov. 14 NYS Attorney General presentation Smithtown Main Library, 7pm
Tues. Nov. 20 Library Board of Trustees Meeting, Main Library, 7 pm
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