



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

September 2015

<http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/LWVSmithtown.html>

President's Report

The Smithtown League is going to be very publicly active this month as you can see from the list of activities in this Voter. We're hoping this will lead to more interest in the League and new members – ask a friend or neighbor to one of these dates.

Our League is involved in reading two studies all ready written by other leagues and agreeing with them – this is called a concurrence. The two studies are “Money in Politics” (MIP)and “Raising the Age”.

The MIP has conducted an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The consensus process considers (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities, and (2) how these rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position. Barbara Hargrave Cromeyn will lead this update.

“Raising the Age” will be a concurrence on raising the minimum age from 16 to 18 years as consideration of “adult “in the criminal justice system. New York State continues to be the only state other than North Carolina that prosecutes all youth as adults when they turn 16 years of age. Further, New York allows children as young as 7 years old to be arrested and charged with acts of juvenile delinquency. Sondra Irvine is leading Raising the Age.

If any member or friend would like to join either group contact Sondra or Barbara – their information is in this Voter.

Mary Zopf

Important dates and information in this issue of the Smithtown Voter:

- Tuesday September 1
LWV Smithtown Board Meeting
- Thursday September 10
Republican Primary for Town Board
- Wednesday September 16
LWVSC Board Meeting– guests welcome
Dan Gulizio, Peconic Baykeeper
See LWVSC Sept. Voter in this issue
- Saturday September 19
Smithtown 350 Fireworks Celebration
- Sunday September 20
Smithtown Historical Society
Heritage Country Fair– LWV table
- Tuesday September 22
National Voter Registration Day
Walmart, Commack– LWV table
- Saturday September 26
Smithtown 350 Parade– LWV participates
- Town of Smithtown
Meeting Schedule
- Smithtown Library
Meeting Schedule

Coming in October:

Oct. 5-Candidates Meeting at the Brush Barn

Oct. 8-Student Day at the
Suffolk County Legislature



National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 22, 2015

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2015, we want to make sure no one is left out. On September 22, 2015, volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters who we could not reach otherwise.

League of Women Voters of Smithtown members are encouraged to volunteer to distribute voter registration forms and answer questions at a League table at Walmart at 85 Crooked Hill Rd, Commack, from 10am through 4pm.

Smithtown Town Board Meetings

Tuesday: September 8

9:30 am work session
2:00 pm regular meeting
*Smithtown Town Hall,
Second Floor Board Room*

Thursday: September 24

7:00 pm regular meeting
*Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Citizen Center
420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown*

Planning Board

First and third Wednesday of the month 8 pm
*Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Citizen Center
420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown*

Board of Zoning Appeals

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month 7 pm
*Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Citizen Center
420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown*

Community Forum on the Future of Long Island

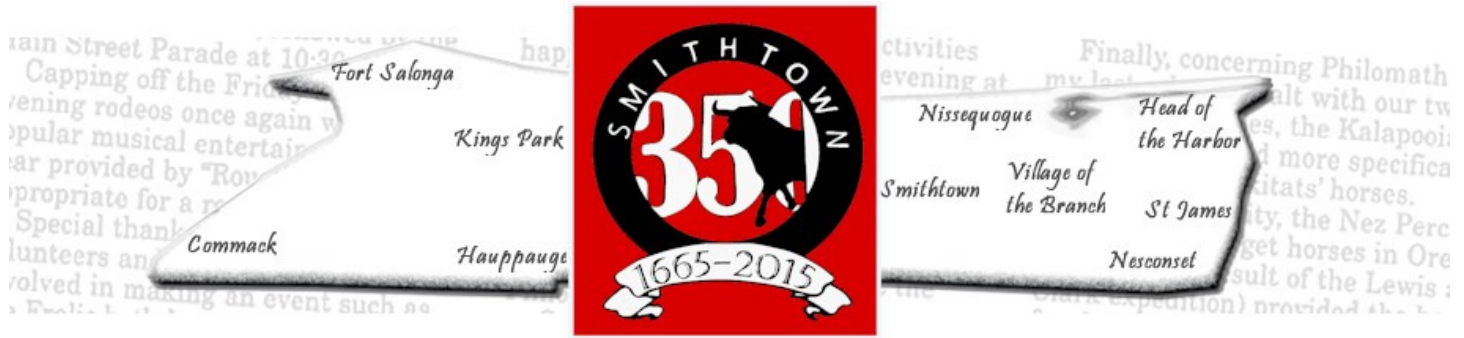
Pat LaWare and I attended this forum in August at the Brentwood Library. It was coordinated by Make the Road New York and New York Communities for Change in collaboration with The Regional Plan Association. It was well run and when we broke into groups (by community). Pat and I were impressed by the young people that led the groups.

The groups discussed improving housing, transportation, and quality of life for low-income and working class communities on Long Island. Transportation was a big issue since large numbers of people do not have cars and it difficult to coordinate if they have to take several busses or take a bus to the railroad station – what takes a half hour by car can take several hours by public transportation. Affordable housing is very hard to obtain on Long Island.

One young man told the story of his parents who work six days a week but are still in danger of losing their house. They also mentioned stories about discrimination against Latinos. Pat suggested to the group that they could contact their legislators for help.

We felt it was important to attend this meeting to understand the problems of people who we do not usually meet and if an opportunity arises support measures that could improve their lives.

Mary Zopf



Smithtown Plans Sesquarcentennial Parade on Saturday, September 26 at noon.

CELEBRATE SMITHTOWN

**COME CELEBRATE
SMITHTOWN'S 350th ANNIVERSARY**

Sunken Meadow State Park

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 • 4:00 P.M.

Fireworks Show

Inflatables

DJ

Live Bands

FREE ADMISSION

VIP Tickets Available
(limited amount)

\$125.00
per person

Food • Open Bar

Private Tent

Private Bathrooms

Entertainment

For more information visit www.Smithtown350Foundation.org
or Facebook: [Smithtown350](https://www.facebook.com/Smithtown350)

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

SMITHTOWN 350 PARADE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 • 12 NOON
Along Main Street (Singer Lane to Town Hall)

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Smithtown 350 Foundation, Inc. is organizing a parade to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Smithtown's founding in 1665. Currently, the foundation is reaching out to community civic, cultural, and school organizations who would like to take part in this celebration. The parade is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 with a step off time at noon. Its theme is "Celebrating Smithtown's Past!" In an effort to highlight Smithtown's 350 years of rich heritage, the foundation is requesting participants to be costumed in clothing that reflects their culture and history. At the conclusion of the parade, floats and participants will gather on the grounds of the New York Avenue School Building. Prizes will be awarded in various categories including Best Costumed Group, Best Creative Float, and much more.

LWV Smithtown will be marching in the parade. Please call Mary Zopf at 499-0107 if you will be joining your fellow League members on this festive occasion.



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631 862-6860

September 2015

LWVSC Board Meeting: 9:30 am Wednesday Sept. 16 at SCCC, Main St., Riverhead

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LWVSC Continues Research on Water Issues in Suffolk County: Dan Gulizio to speak at 11am September 16 (after LWVSC board meeting)

WATER - aquifers and groundwater, estuaries, bays and rivers, natural challenges, man-made threats, storm drain/run-off worries, leaching, sewerage (or not), saltwater incursions, non-biodegradable plastics... the list can go on and on.

Over the last few years, LWVSC has invited speakers to our events and meetings. Dr. Sarah Meyland (Water for Long Island), and Bob DeLuca (Group for the East End) have each spoken to us in Riverhead, and our local Leagues have attended and presented numerous conferences and forums on water issues.

On Wednesday September 16 at 11am (at the close of our regular monthly board meeting) LWVSC will be joined by Dan Gulizio, the Executive Director of Peconic Baykeeper, a water quality advocacy not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote drinkable, swimmable, fishable water. Dan will be talking about the connection between land use and water quality along with strategies for improving both ground and surface water resources. Dan has worked as a planner for over 25 years and has previously served as the Deputy Director of Planning for Suffolk County, Commissioner of Planning, Environment and Land Management for the Town of Brookhaven and Commissioner of Planning and Development for the Town of Islip. He also serves as the Executive Director of The Community Planning Center, a non-profit organization committed to scientifically supported and community-based planning.

Local League members are invited to attend, but must advise a LWVSC board member in advance to plan for adequate seating.

LWVSC Voter Service Initiative in Partnership with Suffolk Bus Service

Thanks to the efforts and leadership of LWV SC director Judi Roth, (LWV Hamptons), we will be producing and placing public information signage (11" x 28") inside each of the 157 Suffolk buses during the two weeks before the November 3 general election. We're working on the design and translation (there will be 2 signs on each bus in English and Spanish) and we'll post the sign on the LWVSC website and encourage others to use it as well.

Our goal is to spread awareness of the election date and times, encourage public education on local candidates and increase voter turnout.

League Connections Lead to... Social Media Hints, Insights, Tools for Action

Local Leagues share ideas with each other via the LWVSC and also have access to LWVNY and LWVUS resources and people. Discussions at the LWVSC board retreat in mid-July at Judy Samuelson's home led to an informative, thought provoking conference call for three of our local League social media specialists with a LWVUS resource person.

LWV Brookhaven's Marilyn Beard, LWV Hamptons' Judy Samuelson and LWV Huntington's Brenda Reiss spent an hour on the phone with Amy Hjerstedt, who had used social media to establish a new local League (LWV of the Eastern Upper Peninsula in Michigan). Amy has since moved to the DC area, but her efforts are being continued in Michigan. She is an example of a League leader who is young, passionate, engaged in social media, and willing to share and work with others.

Amy led the hour-long telephone discussion on in-depth Facebook/topics. The three local League call participants found the conversation a great way to learn from other levels of LWV and share best practices that get results—and now have new ideas to try to increase their local League's visibility on social media and in the community.