

Editorials & comments



Reasons both far and near for \$4.2 billion for the environment

While there are a number of difficult decisions to make on the November 8 ballot, one sure thing is the importance of voting “yes” on the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act, Proposition 1.

This is not about blue or about red. And it is not about the partisan divide that has this country polarized. A “yes” vote for the environmental bond act is about a bright future for generations to come.

On Long Island, what the bond act has to offer is especially important. It will provide funds to protect the drinking water we rely on and preserve our environmentally sensitive ecosystems that provide

the quality of life that keeps us here. At a recent public meeting at which the government was asked to protect a critical wetland resource, Citizens Campaign for the Environment Executive Director Adrienne Esposito summed it up fittingly. “Let’s be honest,” she said, “we don’t live here because of the high taxes or the traffic. We live here because we get to be by the water.”

The North Shore Land Alliance this week released a statement in favor of the bond act which offers a succinct overview of the benefits the bond act will provide. It says: “This is historic legislation that will fund critical environmental protection and restoration projects throughout the state while supporting nearly 100,000 good jobs. Through the Bond Act we will have access to crucial funding to protect open space, safeguard clean drinking water and update our aging water and sewer infrastructure.”

“If successful, the Bond Act will create funding to conserve more land in perpetuity and maintain our quality of life. With the worsening effects of climate change, protecting open spaces, replenishing our aquifers and restoring bays and harbors is more important than ever,” concludes the North Shore Land Alliance.

It is an important conclusion that both makes the case for voting “yes” and moving forward for bringing bond act money here to Long Island, where environmentally sensitive eco-systems and habitats face relentless development pressure. Funding to preserve open space, protect the aquifer, restore bays and harbors and fight to preserve the ills of climate change are critical here.

“Let’s be honest, we don’t live here because of the high taxes or the traffic. We live here because we get to be by the water.”

-Adrienne Esposito

Even more reason to vote “yes” is the potential impact the bond act could have here at home. According to information obtained this week by **The Smithtown News**, there is strong support developing in government to fund the acquisition of 40-acres of open space at the Gyrodyne site in St. James at the southeast corner of Route 25A and Mills Pond Road.

The Gyrodyne property is undeveloped open space in a critical location, a rural enclave that represents what once was here, the BB&GG farm across the street, the landmark Mills Pond House and the Mills Pond Historic District next-door, the historic villages of Head of the Harbor and Nissequogue. To develop this site with medical offices, assisted living facilities, a hotel and a wastewater treatment plant would be a big mistake. In the alternative, using bond act money to fairly compensate Gyrodyne for this property is a great idea.

It is, therefore, critical to vote “yes” on the bond act November 8. Get the ball rolling.

The Smithtown News

PUBLICATION NUMBER: (USPS 499-240)



Published Every Thursday
THE SMITHTOWN NEWS, INC.
 One Brookside Drive
 P.O. Box 805
 Smithtown, NY 11787
 (631) 265-2100
 info@smithtownnews.com

Bernard Paley Editor and Publisher
Jennifer Paley Associate Publisher
David Ambro Managing Editor

Periodicals postage paid at the Smithtown, NY
 Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879

Subscription	Advertising Rates
\$28.00 One Year	on Request
\$45.00 Two Years	631-265-2100

Robert James Malone
 Founder Editor and Publisher, 1945-1966

COMPOSITION RESPONSIBILITY
 This newspaper will not be responsible for any error
 in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error.

WRITE!

Send letters to the editor to:
 info@smithtownnews.com