

# EDITORIAL

## ENDORSEMENTS FOR HUNTINGTON

### Huntington Supervisor - Chad Lupinacci

The choice for Huntington Supervisor is clear. Chad Lupinacci is a moderate Republican with a strong record on environmental, school and ethics issues. A former staff intern to Hillary Clinton, he is not afraid to be bi-partisan. Before joining the NYS Assembly five years ago, Lupinacci served on the South Huntington School Board. His vision for Huntington is pro-active - strong, balanced economic development - without the extortion, favoritism and shakedowns that now characterize Town Hall.

Lupinacci's desire to solve problems - tackling the outrageous drug and gang problems, and finally implementing the redevelopment of Huntington Station - are a breath of fresh air.

Lupinacci's Democratic opponent, Town Councilwoman Tracey Edwards represents more of the same closed mindedness that has characterized Town Hall. Special favors and variances for insiders and big donors. Retaliation and violations against political opponents. Searches and ID checks for residents entering Town Hall. Real problems - like parking - just ignored. The whole petty, "political machine mentality." *The Leader* endorses Chad Lupinacci.

### Huntington Town Board - Jim Leonick and Ed Smyth

Jim Leonick and Ed Smyth are real community leaders in Huntington and, together with incumbent Councilman Gene Cook - who is not up for election this year - will provide Lupinacci with the vision and support to reform Town Hall and make the tough policy decisions to improve our town.

Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, an 18-year incumbent, is a corrupt disgrace. Cuthbertson's "pay to play" favors to Oheka owner Gary Milius - million-dollar condo variances in exchange for campaign cash and lucrative Court receiverships - are under FBI investigation and have been attacked in *Newsday*. Cuthbertson's campaign thugs just vandalized billboards opposing his election. He needs to go, and *The Leader* endorses Jim Leonick and Ed Smyth.

### Suffolk Legislature - Dom Spada

Three-term incumbent William Spencer has failed. Spencer served as head of the Suffolk Medical Association - a lobbying group - while heading the county legislature's health committee, allocating millions of taxpayer dollars for his employers and lobbying clients. That is called a "conflict of interest."

More seriously, Spencer did nothing about an openly dirty cop - former Suffolk Police Chief James Burke - now a convicted felon in federal prison. Burke beat prisoners, used his police car for sex with felon prostitutes, lied to police investigators and the FBI, orchestrated wiretaps against cops who cooperated with the FBI, and forced over 20 Suffolk police officers to lie to the FBI. All on Spencer's watch.

Burke ended cooperation on federal joint anti-gang and anti-drug task forces, causing heroin use and violent gangs like MS-13 to explode. But Spencer - responsible for legislative oversight of the police - just posed with Burke. Hundreds died of guns and drugs, yet Spencer said nothing and did nothing. Spencer is a political coward.

Dom Spada is a Halesite Fire Captain, and serves as Trustee and Police Commissioner of Huntington Bay. He coaches lacrosse and football in Huntington. He has lead anti-drug efforts through the fire department. Spada is a fundamentally decent man, and deserves a chance to serve. *The Leader* endorses Dom Spada.

*The Publisher*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We encourage our readers to express their view regardless of opinion, through the Letters to the Editor column. Letters published represent the viewpoint of our readers. *They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Leader* and, in fact, may be of opposite viewpoint. Letters should be typed and mailed or emailed to the editor's attention. Letters will be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. All letters should be signed and contain author's address and telephone number for verification. Although it is discouraged, we will withhold an author's name if the subject matter is sensitive or the writer may be subject to intimidation or harassment. Letters that contain accusations or important "facts" must demonstrate knowledge in the area described or show evidence for their writing. *The Leader* will not return letters and reserves the right to publish them at a later time or not at all, due to lack of space or editor's discretion.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Leader* has received several unsigned letters to the editor. We will respect an author's request for anonymity, but must have your name, address, and phone number. We want to hear from you and publish your opinions, so in the future, kindly include the above requested information.

### IT'S A QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE IN LOCUST VALLEY

To The Editor,

Approximately six years ago, The Town of Oyster Bay did the residents of Locust Valley a big favor. They demolished a huge apartment building, located at 398 Forest Avenue. This property had long been in disrepair and dangerous, overcrowded and constantly visited by the police.

The occupants would have huge parties with loud music, and alcohol and/or drugs were rampant. Many illegal apartments and unwanted tenants, such as the MS 13 gang members were present.

In addition, it was to the point where Locust Valley residents, especially women and children, did not want to walk by because they would be greeted with vulgar remarks and stared at. I had even witnessed, on many occasions, men urinating on the sides of the building.

As it stands now, it is still a very dangerous traffic area, with numerous accidents. We have a deli/bodega nearby on Forest Avenue between 12th and 13th Street that is very troublesome. It was only a few years ago that it was shut down for selling drugs out of the storefront. In the last few months, it has become an illegal Tiki bar. The customers go in, buy alcohol and drink it in the driveway nearby, daily.

It looks really great for our neighborhood. Maybe we can have them hold up signs that say "Welcome to Locust Valley" while they drink.

The Town of Oyster Bay has been made aware of the problem, and we are waiting for action. Drinking and hanging out on the side of the building is not acceptable, period! The New York State Liquor Authority has also been notified. Our quality of life in this neighborhood is surely being affected.

Now, is the time for action. We do not, and should not, be subjected to this. 13th Street needs to be cleaned up

Our residents were informed last year that Aquadilla, LTD, a builder, would like to erect a three story building on 398 Forest Avenue. The building would have eight apartments with a parking garage beneath it. The Town of Oyster Bay told them it was too much and would have to

revise the plan, however, they still want a three story building with parking below. We, the homeowners and tax paying residents in the immediate area, DO NOT WANT THIS. We ask that the residents come down to the Locust Valley Library on Thursday, October 19th at 7 PM.

We need to stand together as a community and express our concerns and opposition to this proposal. We need to let this builder know that we certainly do not want a vacant lot, but also will not accept possible overcrowding and "Section 8" apartments, and certainly not a parking garage at the "Gateway" to Locust Valley. How many families will be in these apartments, and who are they? Who will want to rent these apartment when the surrounding area is in shambles? We want to go forward as a neigh-

borhood, not backward. Let's attend the meeting and ask these and other important questions.

Please, attend. You might think "Well, this is not that close to me" and I will tell you that we must stick together. At some point, it will affect you, probably sooner rather than later.

Thank you very much,  
A longtime and concerned  
LV Resident.

### A CORRECTION

In last week's article on page 9, "Student Art Show Winner", Ava Schieferstein was incorrectly identified. *The Leader* apologizes for any confusion.

## Yes, I want *The Leader*.

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