



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR EDWARD P. ROMAINE FIRST DISTRICT

Serving Eastern Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY, 2010

ROMAINE SWORN IN FOR NEW TERM; SECURES MORE MEETINGS FOR RIVERHEAD

At the Suffolk County Legislature's 41st organizational meeting, Legislator Ed Romaine was sworn in for his third term representing the First District. One of his first acts was to vote on a general meeting calendar that includes six meetings of the County Legislature in Riverhead. [More Details](#)

ROMAINE AND EAST END LEADERS CALL ON MTA TO CONTINUE TRAIN SERVICE FROM RONKONKOMA TO GREENPORT

Legislator Ed Romaine joined with East End government, business, labor, and civic leaders at the historic Riverhead train station – now slated for closure – to call on the MTA to continue providing train service from Ronkonkoma to Greenport.

“The LIRR was conceived to provide rail service to Greenport,” said Romaine. Now the MTA is proposing eliminating the very line that was the genesis of its existence. It’s a disgrace.” [More Details](#)

PROPERTY TAXES FLAT ON NORTH FORK

The 2010 adopted budget includes no tax increase for North Fork and Shelter Island residents. Brookhaven residents will see only a 3% increase in the police district tax.

The adopted budget reduces spending by \$6 million and reduces overly optimistic sales tax revenue growth projections by \$10.3 million; both of which were included by the County Executive.

“This was an extremely difficult year,” noted Romaine. “The legislature had to make some very difficult choices. However, we were able to craft a plan that will continue to provide important services to county residents while recognizing the difficult economic times.”

The plan funds 80 new correctional officers and 11 new deputy sheriffs along with additional staff for the District Attorney’s office. Several vital programs were saved from the chopping block, including Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Family Health and Wellness and 4-H programs.

In addition, the legislature was able to allow last year’s park fee increase to sunset, and keep bus fares flat.

ROMAINE URGES FAA TO HONOR SCHUMER/BISHOP REQUEST TO REGULATE HELICOPTER TRAFFIC OVER LONG ISLAND

In a letter to Administrator J. Randolph Babbitt, Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine urged the FAA to honor a recent request by Senator Charles Schumer and Congressman Timothy Bishop to regulate helicopter over Long Island.

Senator Schumer and Congressman Bishop recently met with Administrator Babbitt and urged the FAA to regulate helicopter traffic over Long Island citing existing federal statutes.

In his letter, Romaine writes, “The Federal Aviation Administration does have the power to regulate helicopter traffic and, as the recent accident over the Hudson River confirms, helicopter traffic needs additional regulation.”

“Long Island residents cannot go another summer with helicopters continually buzzing above their heads. Now is the time to adopt regulations and grant Long Islanders some peace and quiet,” Romaine’s letter closed. [More Details](#)



Pictured left to right are Legis. Romaine and County Clerk Judith Pascale as Romaine signs the official log book after receiving the oath of office on Jan. 4th.

H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE...The CDC has reported a decreasing numbers of reported cases of H1N1. However, there is a tendency for flu viruses to resurface in the winter months.

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services is holding H1N1 immunization clinics. Clinics are open to the public and appointments are not needed. [More Details](#)

A NOTE FROM ED ROMAINE

Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for your interest in my electronic newsletter. As a cost savings measure, the county eliminated printed newsletter. However, in an effort to continue to provide you with updates on county government, I have instituted an electronic version, which you will receive monthly. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me as always.

Sincerely,
Edward P. Romaine