

SUFFOLK CLOSEUP

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So far somewhat more than \$300,000 has been raised.

With the warm weather and more people on eastern Long Island — many of whom join year-rounders as ardent listeners of WLIU — the fundraising has been getting better, said Dr. Smith last week. He had just received a \$10,000 contribution from a North Fork listener. He emphasized that Peconic Public Broadcasting is looking for contributions small and large.

They can be made online through peconicpublicbroadcasting.org; by mail to: Peconic Public Broadcasting, 71 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968; or by phone by calling Liz Lattanzio, development director, at (631) 591-7003.

A hurdle for Peconic Public Broadcasting was the decision by Stony Brook University this spring ordering the station to move out of the studios on the campus, which it had acquired from Long Island University and renamed Stony Brook Southampton. It was an outrageous decision considering the same Stony Brook administrators several weeks later decided to all but close Stony Brook Southampton.

The WLIU studios were gutted, with some \$200,000 of “some of the best acoustical material available” thrown into a dumpster, notes Dr. Smith.

Meanwhile, new studios were set up at 71 Hill Street in Southampton.

“They’re actually fine,” said Dr.

Smith. “It’s much more informal. It has changed the psyche of the staff being here on street level in the village. It’s not unusual for people to walk in and say hello. The mailman comes in and [program host] Bonnie [Grice] says hello to him on the air. We feel a bond with the community that we didn’t when we were isolated in that gorgeous facility on the second floor of the campus. We didn’t realize how separated we were from the ground on which everybody walks and works.”

A problem that has affected fundraising is that appeals cannot be made on WLIU’s air for capital funds for Peconic Public Broadcasting because WLIU is still owned by LIU. FCC rules, explains Dr. Smith, preclude a non-profit radio station from appealing for capital funds for a separate non-profit entity.

At a time when radio has been homogenized through consolidation and monopoly control on Long Island and across the U.S., WLIU stands out.

It offers a special tapestry of broadcasting — music from jazz to show tunes to classical, talk shows, reports on arts and culture, humor and news. It must be saved.

Like farmland, a radio station license is a limited and precious resource, notes Dr. Smith. “We are trying to save the license for the East End community. If we don’t, not only would we lose a voice for the community, but we would surrender yet another piece of the local landscape to a potential outsider.”

GUEST SPOT**Return of the Common Good**

By Father Peter DeSanctis

Among the benefits of smaller-town life is a concern for the Common Good. This benefit differs from sentiment or nostalgia. Human nature is, fundamentally, the same wherever and whenever; nonetheless, at one time, the purpose of the civics class in school was to imbue this sense of collective accountability through the presentation of the checks and balances, the ways and means of elected government and community living.

In this essay, we argue for a return to discussion and presentation of the Common Good. This plea is based on three observations of recent circumstances close to home: much good can be achieved in a short time when motivation is present; civil discussion is possible; and long-term thinking trumps short-term victories.

Here is a conclusion based on the first observation — Motivation means much. Assemble a group that has decided on the importance of a topic or event and accomplishments abound

in a short period of time. Delay deadens. The trick is to decide what is important, then to think, to plan and to act accordingly.

A second conclusion results from an appreciation of the effort made to present facts. Prior to opinions, facts rule. An agreed-upon fact may jump-start a seemingly deadlocked situation. Further, let the written text — research, statute, guideline, ordinance — serve as a basis for reasoned discourse prior to the intrusion of self-interest.

The third conclusion cherishes the conviction that those who disagree today need to continue to live in a harmonious community tomorrow. The urge to boast or to brood after a mere skirmish depletes the energy required to keep going, together.

This brief essay argues for the Common Good, which is a sure investment in the future. As my late father would say: “The good old days were not.” Motivation, civility and long-term thinking are worthy goals today. The Common Good need not be uncommon.

Motivation, civility and long-term thinking are worthy goals today.

LETTERS

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ripped off and then dismissed by the people they pay to serve them. One person honestly feeling that way is too many. No policy can be perfect, but that doesn’t mean we don’t at least consider improving it if it doesn’t break the system or the bank. That’s all I was asking for.

PAUL SHEPHERD
SHELTER ISLAND

Movie madness

To the Editor:

I find Mr. Meringer’s letter from Kentucky [July 22 issue] insulting to Ms. Nancy Baxter, who, by the way, has been visiting and living on this Island for many years. In her letter, which appeared in the Shelter Island Reporter on July 15, Ms. Baxter was not asking for a movie theater on Shelter Island; she was asking for the Reporter to publish, as it did for years, the listing of the movies played each week in the neighboring towns, something I, who also live here year-round, would much appreciate.

JOSETTE SCHOELLKOPF
SHELTER ISLAND

On vitriolic letter

To the Editor:

This is a response to Billy Meringer’s letter in the last issue, sent from Monterey, Kentucky.

I am still in shock at the vitriol of his response to my request for listing local movies in the Reporter. What a nasty comment! “The ferry sells one-way tickets, in case you and your friends are interested.”

He is suggesting that people who like movies should leave the island permanently? That’s the only explanation I can conceive for this ridiculous remark.

For Mr. Meringer’s information, I live here year-round, and I happen to like movies. I am active in the library, do volunteer work for several Island organizations, and love and appreciate Shelter Island. I never go to McDonald’s or other fast-food restaurants, and I and my friends, apparently unlike Mr. Meringer, do have an ongoing interest in “culture,” including all the arts, which include film. Choosing to live here need not and does not involve a complete lack of interest in events beyond our shores.

NANCY BAXTER
OSPREY ROAD

Hooray for Hollywood

To the Editor:

Bill Meringer’s “Folks don’t come to Shelter Island for movies or culture” must be challenged. When the Puritans landed at Havens House, the first thing they did, after they sold the Indians a one-way ticket to the Shinnecock Canal, was to commission a movie emporium at the Shelter Island Library. It continues today, three seasons, every two weeks, evenings at 7 p.m. Later, Benjamin Franklin’s two Island post offices were opened to distribute Netflix six days a week. I am worried now that if we can’t get Billy back to Kentucky, the Perlman Center may be the next culture candidate for the ferry.

Kudos for Nancy Baxter.

JOSEPH G. MURPHY
SHELTER ISLAND

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