

OPINION

OUR VIEWS

Come visit the new Riverheadnewsreview.com

Like virtually all our media counterparts, community newspapers are facing a period of great change. Many of these changes stem from the way you, our readers, now prefer to get your news.

Sure, there are still traditionalists who don't mind waiting until Thursday so they can hold the paper in their hands while they sip coffee and learn about what's going on in their community. But there are many more people these days who want to know what's happening right now. And for that portion of our readership, it's important that we have a modern website that's frequently updated with fresh content.

That's why we're pleased to have launched a revamped online destination for folks to stay up-to-date with what's going on in Riverhead at riverheadnewsreview.com, while still enjoying the well-written content readers have come to expect from the newspaper.

Here are some of the new features we hope you will enjoy:

- The site now boasts an interactive calendar. Limited space in our print editions made it necessary to leave out events in our popular Community section. Now an event in Westhampton Beach, for example, certainly an easy drive for Riverhead residents, can be listed — for free — by anyone who has a subscription. Even dates for commercial promotions can be loaded onto the site.

- Why go elsewhere to talk about the stories in our paper? Our new site offers not only the ability to comment on stories, but also a new message board for you to weigh in on the local issues most important to you. You can find it under the "Connect" tab at the top of our home page.

- You can save when you patronize local businesses by visiting us online first. The new site offers digital coupons that can be used for deals at favorite local haunts such as Digger O'Dell's. Digital coupons, even available through text message, are located in the right column of our website, adjacent to our sports news.

- The site gives local businesses a new outlet to advertise their services. With more advertising holes in prominent places on our home page, they can now utilize our site to attract new customers. The site also boasts an extensive business directory.

- Looking to go to the movies? Log on to see what films are playing at East End theaters and when. Give it a try by clicking on "Movie Times," located in the "Calendar" tab at the top of the site.

A beautiful town deserves a beautiful news and community website to represent it. We think we have delivered.

But we want to hear what you think.

Please take some time from your busy schedules to register and explore our site so you can better inform us of what you do or do not like about it. Readers can do so over the phone by calling editor Michael White at 631-298-3200, ext. 152, through e-mail at mwhite@timesreview.com or by clicking the "Write the Editor" button at riverheadnewsreview.com.

YOUR LETTERS

JAMESPORT

We need stability in Riverhead schools

When I picked up the News-Review and saw the article about Diane Scricca possibly retiring this year, all I could think of was, "Here we go again!" I ask myself why is it that the Riverhead Central School District seemingly cannot find a superintendent who is willing to make the commitment to see through the changes that they bring to the district.

As for the next educational leader, there may be a sentiment to promote from within. The fact remains that whoever is the next superintendent, that person needs to make a long-term pledge to the community and kids that they will be there for 10 years or more. We don't need another person to come in here to pad their retirement with a three-year fat check

LETTERS POLICY

We welcome all letters addressed and written exclusively to the editor of the Riverhead News-Review.

Here are some rules: We don't print anonymous letters. In order for your letter to be considered for publication, it must have your name on it. Provide your mailing address and a daytime phone number for confirmation purposes — they will not be published. We won't publish assertions judged to be libelous or letters about private, personal disputes, unless they are judged to be of significant community interest. Thank-you letters are welcome but have lower priority than opinion letters.

Keep it short: We reserve the right to edit all letters for length to fit available space.

We're the editors: We will edit your letter for grammar, style and sense.

We prefer e-mail: Send an attached text file to editor@timesreview.com. If you can't e-mail your letter, you can send it to Editor, Riverhead News-Review, P.O. Box 1500, Mattituck, NY 11952 or fax it to 631-298-3287.

Deadline, what deadline? Letters will be published in the next available edition as space allows. Letters received after noon on Tuesday are less likely to appear in Thursday's paper than those received earlier.

to raise their final average. As an educator, I can see in the district where I work the results of stability in the most important position in a school district. In my first 24 years at that school we had two superintendents. And, we have had great academic success, beautifully maintained buildings, bond issues that passed and a sense of community within the schools themselves.

Board members, please consider these three things in your next choice: 1. Someone who is willing to make a long-term commitment; 2. Someone with a vision for Riverhead as we navigate through the swamp of economics and state mandates; and 3. Someone who has at their heart what is best for kids.

We do not need another person who shakes the tree and as the fruit begins to spoil, skips town. Likewise, we don't need someone to pad their pension just to bail out and hop aboard the gravy train of interim superintendent positions where they will make more per day than Riverhead could ever pay!

My son will be a junior at Riverhead High School next year. He will have his sixth superintendent!

John Wevers

Editor's note: Mr. Wevers is the band director at Copiague High School.

CALVERTON

MTA thievery at the DMV

The media has heavily publicized the recent MTA tax added on salaries paid in Suffolk County and elsewhere. Five towns are currently considering breaking away from the MTA because of this new added tax. But why isn't the media reporting on the \$25 surcharge added to all registrations? I went to register a small boat trailer and found the fee had jumped from \$20 per year to \$45 per year because of the MTA surcharge. I questioned the increased fee and was told that it was a new surcharge passed by Governor Paterson to subsidize the MTA. Two-year automobile registrations incur a \$50 surcharge at renewal time. I find this new surcharge outright thievery on the part of the MTA.

Sal Mastropaolo

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RIVERHEAD NEWS-REVIEW

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