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## LEAVES...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the past, and picking them up interferes with his department's effort to install snow fencing and prepare its snowplows for winter. The leaves also clog drains and contribute to flooding, he said.

"We don't have the personnel we used to have here," Mr. Woodson said.

The idea of doing away with curbside pickup of loose leaves will likely meet with opposition from some residents, including the town supervisor.

"This is important to me, I like my leaves at the curb," Supervisor Sean Walter said.

But Councilman Jim Wooten said putting leaves on the curb narrows roadways and clogs drains.

"It seems like the west part of the town likes the bag pickup and east likes curbside pickup," Councilman George Gabrielsen said.

Councilman John Dunleavy said a lot of older residents find it easier to just rake the leaves to the curb. But Councilwoman Jodi Giglio said some residents

prefer to bag leaves because then they won't blow back on their property. Mr. Walter said that's the minority.

"If I bag my leaves, and you rake them, and a wind comes and your leaves blow on my yard, that gets me aggravated," Mr. Dunleavy said.

"You've hit the third rail of garbage in Riverhead," Mr. Walter said.

As with neighboring Southampton, Riverhead Town has been looking into options to cut leaf pickup costs, but it hasn't decided on any one plan yet, Mr. Woodson said, adding that the town probably will try to implement any new procedure over a couple of years, instead of all at once. Riverhead, Southampton and East Hampton are the only Suffolk towns that still do curbside leaf pickup, though some villages also do so. East Hampton officials have been pushing, unsuccessfully so far, for an all-bagging program to raise revenue from the sale of bags and to cut down on the hours highway crews must spend collecting loose leaves.

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## TEA TIME...

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and big spending and big government in Washington. It's absolutely insane."

"I'm not happy with any of them, especially the president," said Pat Kelly of Calverton. "They've got to go. They're destroying the country."

She was carrying a sign that read, "You can't fix stupid, but you can vote them out."

Ms. Kelly said she'd never been politically active "until Obama got in."

"I don't like either party," she said.

"They're selling the country down the drain," said Bill Hughes of Hampton Bays, a retired police officer who ran unsuccessfully for Southampton Town Board on the Republican line last November. "I'm angry at big government. This is supposed to be government by the people. We don't need things shoved down our throat at more and more expense to the taxpayers."

Mary Meyer said her group hopes to make the TEA Party an annual event.

"We are not playing anymore," she told the crowd from a podium as the sun set over the river. "We will unseat every sitting congressman — and Bishop, that includes you — and every deadbeat official until we get the House and Senate back and can repeal this unconstitutional debacle you call health care reform."

Jon Schneider, an aide to Mr. Bishop, said in an interview Tuesday that the first step in the election process will be to see who wins the Republican primary, and how much the Tea Party backing helps Mr. Bernsten.

"The Republican primary will be an interesting test of the Tea Party's strength," Mr. Schneider said. As for criticisms that the movement backs only Republicans, he said, "I take each person as their own entity. For some, it may be Republican politics by another name, but others may be more independent."

Mr. Meyer said he's confident Mr. Bernsten will win the Republican primary.

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## RALLY...

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Schmelzer Riverfront Park on West Main Street, about a quarter-mile from the jail.

Mr. Walter said building a playground near the site would prevent the county from placing any more sex offenders in the trailer near the jail. Riverhead and Southampton towns sued the county last year, claiming it was violating the law by placing the homeless sex offenders too close to the town-owned park and Riverhead Free Library.

Earlier this year, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy said the county would do away with the trailers in favor of a system that would provide offenders with daily \$90 vouchers to be used for food and lodging in motels and boarding houses.

The Legislature has since stalled a measure to increase petty cash funding for the Department of Social Services, which would permit full implementation of that program fully implemented and removal of the trailers.

West end legislators Steve Stern and Lou D'Amara, both Democrats from Huntington Town, have introduced a bill in the Legislature that would make the trailers, which do not have showers or cooking facilities, permanent.

Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay (D-Holbrook) recently called on the county to scrap both plans in favor of spreading the offender population across the county, with no more than three Level 2 and 3 sex offenders, deemed the most likely to re-offend, living in the same place.

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