

# OPINION

## LETTERS POLICY

- Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
- Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.
- Letters may be edited for space considerations.
- The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor.
- All letters become the property of The Leader and cannot be returned to sender.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Vote Leonard for town justice

TO THE EDITOR | I would like to speak on behalf of Dale Leonard, who is running for Town Justice in the Town of Corning. I would highly recommend Dale's election to this office. Dale is a retired New York State Trooper and is well-versed in New York Law and very familiar with the workings of the Court System.

Dale spent many hours in my court and was well respected in his line of work. He also performed his duties well. He is also a life-long resident of the Town. Remember to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

—Lester H. Betts,  
Painted Post

#### O'Mara ignores GOP culpability

TO THE EDITOR | Sen. Tom O'Mara's article, Sunday, Oct. 18, in The Leader is at least the second time he has blamed Governor Cuomo for not enough state aid to fix our deteriorating state's infrastructure. Hey, why not blame it on a Democrat?

He conveniently fails to mention the fact that the "teed off" Republicans in Congress have failed to pass the president's jobs bill, which would create thousands of good-paying construction jobs. Due to Republican governors' gerrymandering their voter district, these so-called representatives can refuse to govern, and not have to worry about repercussions at home. When they say they "hate the big government", the truth is they hate the president and won't cooperate with him on anything even if it hurts the country and the fading middle class.

Sadly the days of a "chicken in every pot" are no more.

—Richard Keeney,  
Corning

#### Edwards: Ready to serve as clerk

TO THE EDITOR | For those of you that do not know me, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Susan Edwards and I am running for Corning Town Clerk in November.

I am a 30+ year resident of Corning and consider myself fortunate to call this my home. I am no stranger to the operations of the clerk's office, as I have served as the Deputy

Clerk at the Town of Corning for 10+ years. In those 10 years I gained the required knowledge and dedication needed to move the clerk's office forward in a positive and productive manner.

I have attended yearly continuing education seminars. I am a registered Notary Public and my organizational skills are my strength, a vital necessity for the Clerk position.

Additionally, through serving the residents of Corning, I truly understand and appreciate the needs of the property owners, town employees, and other professionals seeking assistance from the clerk's office. I am committed to meeting your ongoing needs.

I have the vision and the heartfelt desire to serve the residents of the town, and with your help on election day, I know I can offer positive results. I am asking for your support on November 3rd, by voting for me, Susan Edwards, for Corning Town Clerk.

—Susan Edwards,  
Corning

#### Leonard qualified to serve as judge

TO THE EDITOR | I would like to urge you to vote for Dale Leonard for Town of Corning Justice. I have known Dale for many years and have found him to be a man of his word and a man of integrity.

Dale has been a life-long resident of Corning. He served his country four years in the US Air Force.

He went three years to Corning Community College before entering the Police Academy. Dale retired from the State Police after serving New York State for 20 years. His specialty was serving as an accident reconstructionist. He had been appointed in 2008 to finish out the term vacated by Judge James Patrick.

His experience, training, knowledge of the law and integrity qualify him to be the best candidate for the position.

—Susan S. Tompkins,  
Corning

#### Election letter deadline set

Editor's note | Letters to the editor regarding the Nov. 3 general election must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 27. Please email your letters to Stella DuPree at [sdupree@the-leader.com](mailto:sdupree@the-leader.com)

### WEEKLY COLUMN | SEN. TOM O'MARA

# Sharing responsibility for cyber preparedness

The ever-deepening public concern over cyber security simply wouldn't have crossed the minds of most of us just a few short decades ago. But today there's no turning back. And it's not just about a post-9/11 emphasis on preventing international terrorism anymore. We're constantly reading or hearing yet another story about across-the-board threats that make cyber security a modern fact of life.

On an everyday level it means, "How can I protect my home computer or personal device?" But it quickly becomes a much more complicated and daunting task for governments, corporations, health care systems and other large organizations. The threats range from straightforward identity thefts to more sophisticated attacks that pose at-large risks to public security.

So before we shut down another October, let's put back on the screen that for the 12th straight year October 2015 has been observed as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. One of the effort's prime sponsors, the federal Department of Homeland Security, sums up its purpose this way, "No country, industry, community, or individual is immune to cyber risks. As a nation, we face constant cyber threats against our critical infrastructure and economy. As individuals, cyber security risks can threaten our finances, identity, and privacy. Since



SEN. TOM O'MARA

our way of life depends on critical infrastructure and the digital technology that operates it, cyber security is one of our country's most important national security priorities, and we each have a role to play – cyber security is a shared responsibility." That's the cornerstone message: Cyber security and preparedness is a shared responsibility.

We place our collective trust in the Department of Homeland Security and the remainder of the federal security network to protect this nation.

At the state level, legislative committees in the Senate and Assembly continue to examine ways we can update state laws and other initiatives to keep our infrastructures, our institutions and all of our citizens one step ahead of cybercriminals and other public security concerns and threats.

The State Office of Information Technology Services ([www.its.ny.gov](http://www.its.ny.gov)) spearheads many statewide strategies.

New York State Chief Information Officer Margaret Miller says, "Given the critical role technology and the Internet play in virtually every aspect of our daily lives, it is essential we understand

the cyber risks and know how to minimize them. The cybercriminals only have to be successful once; we have to be vigilant all the time. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many resources the state has to help you improve your cyber preparedness."

But ultimately the issue reaches right down to the personal devices we use to access the Internet – our phones, tablets, laptops and home computers.

So, again, the most basic question becomes, "How do I protect myself?" New York State must stay focused on cyber security and all of the looming, troubling threats that we see coming on this horizon. And as we keep putting in place more and more networks locally, regionally and statewide to keep bringing more and more citizens online, cyber security awareness in the home becomes increasingly important.

So I'll finish shutting down October by sharing the following safety suggestions issued by the state Office of Information Technology Services earlier in the month:

- **Keep a Clean Machine.** Be sure your computer and mobile devices are current with all operating system and application software updates. Install and maintain firewalls, anti-virus and anti-spyware software;
- **Use Strong Passwords.** Create strong passwords using a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters. Don't use words that can be found in dictionaries,

regardless of language. Hackers have tools that can automatically run through all possible dictionary words to crack your password;

■ **Think Before You Click.** Be wary of communication that implores you to act immediately, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or asks for personal information;

■ **Don't Take the Bait on Phishing Scams!** Never respond to emails that ask for your password, financial account, or other sensitive information.

Legitimate organizations will not ask users to send such information via email;

■ **When in Doubt, Throw it Out!** Delete suspicious emails and ignore questionable links; and

■ **Less is More.** Limit the amount of personal information you post online and use privacy settings to avoid sharing too much information.

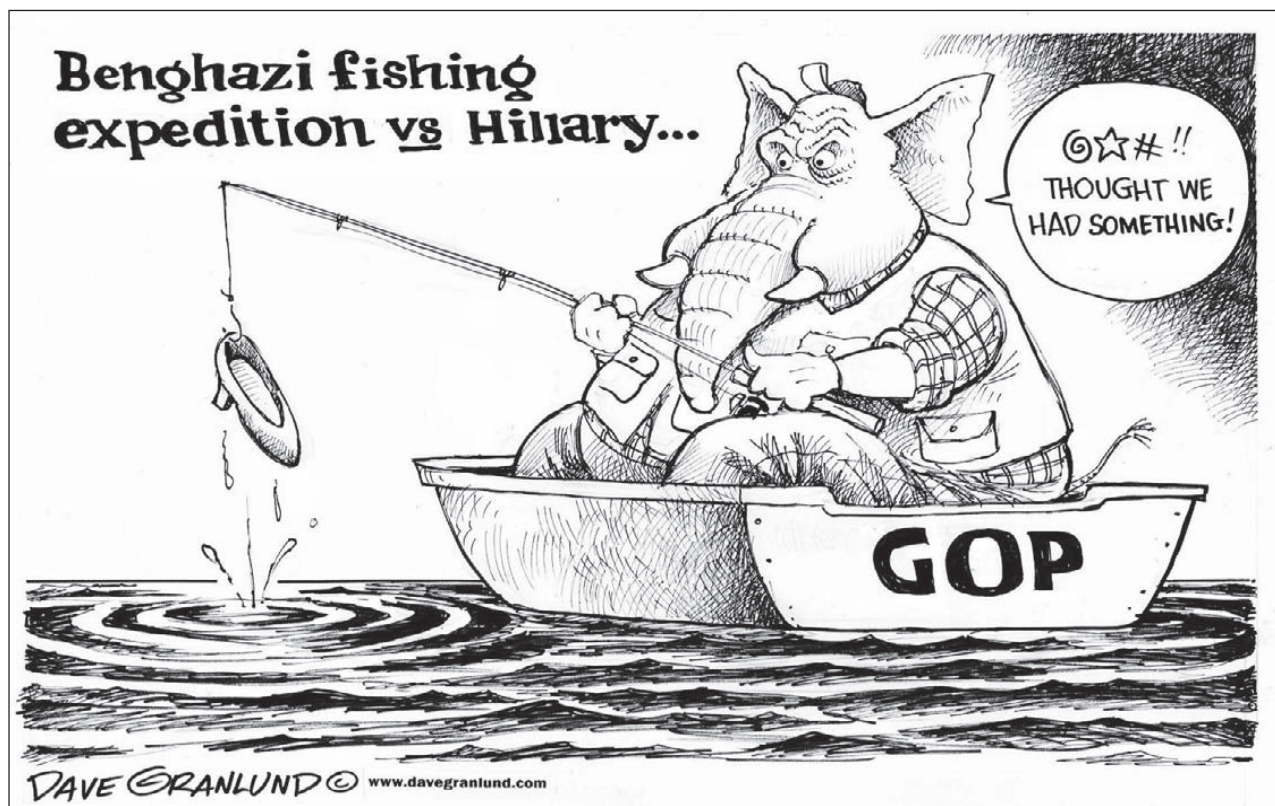
Remember: For more tips for staying safe online, visit [www.its.ny.gov](http://www.its.ny.gov)

And you can e-mail my office at [omara@nysenate.gov](mailto:omara@nysenate.gov) to request a copy of the popular Senate brochures:

"Protect Yourself from Identity Theft" and "Identity Theft: What Every Parent Should Know."

Because I agree: Cyber security and preparedness is truly a shared responsibility. —State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 53rd Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.

### ANOTHER VIEW



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Your vote matters in Corning town

TO THE EDITOR | November 3rd will bring lots of opportunity to the Town of Corning, some good and some not so good.

Two very distinct camps have developed with glaring differences and both are seeking to fill the positions of Town Clerk, Town Justice and Town Council seats. One camp includes people that are overflowing with direct experience in business, finance, town service management and law enforcement. This group of candidates has actually invested their time and talent by having served in the positions they are seeking. Sue Edwards, running for

Town Clerk, has already served the Town for more than 10 years as the Deputy Clerk. Sue is the epitome of what good customer service looks like. She is an expert in her field and serves her customers with care, quality and a sincerity... always. Dale Leonard, running for Town Justice, has the professional knowledge and experience gained by an exemplary career of 20 years with the NYS State Police. Dale is also the former Acting Justice and is committed to fairness and protection for all our Town residents.

Dylan DeWert has faithfully and effectively served the Town for more than 26 years! Fourteen of these years as the Highway

Superintendent, of which he is seeking re-election. Dylan is the pinnacle of knowledge around successful infrastructure development and maintenance. He consistently executes the task of Town management with unquestionable financial restraint.

Stuart Sammis, a former Corning Inc. project manager and current small business owner, has served the last four years as a Town Councilman. Despite the current dysfunction and hostile environment, Stuart has been able to bring forth a number of successful initiatives and is committed to producing a more positive and fruitful environment for all Town residents and Town employees.

Newcomer, Dave Shafer brings his MBA and much needed financial expertise to our Town. Dave has worked as a business director for Arnot Health and is currently serving his 17th year as Treasurer for the East Corning Fire Department. Dave's expertise and leadership will be important as we try to safeguard our finances and protect our hard working tax payers. Your vote matters! The last primary election was decided by only 14 votes! Come out and vote on Tuesday Nov. 3 for Experience, Talent and Civility. Vote for Sue Edwards, Dale Leonard, Dylan DeWert, Stuart Sammis and Dave Shafer.

—Jennifer Ruland,  
Corning

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