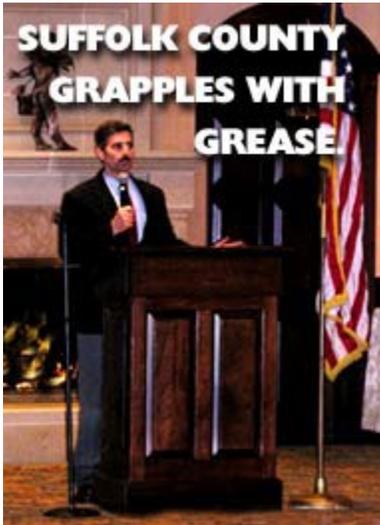


April 5, 2005 - LILWA Attends NYWEA Meeting



County Executive, Steve Levy, at the
April 12th, 2005 Meeting of the NYWEA.

At the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) meeting in Smithtown, on April 12th, LILWA representatives got to rub elbows with the movers and shakers of the environmental establishment. The NYWEA is non-profit, educational organization made up of engineers, scientists, treatment plant operators, state and local government officials, members of various industries, educators and just about anybody else involved with environmental issues, especially where water is concerned. Their stated mission is to protect and enhance our water resources.

he main speaker was Suffolk County Executive, Steve Levy, who laid out a long list of his administration's accomplishments and planned programs to improve the quality of life in the county by striking a balance between economic growth and environmental concerns. Among his major points, Mr. Levy spoke of the county's programs to acquire, set aside and preserve undeveloped land, as well as to reclaim and rehabilitate many of the county's abandoned properties. He spoke of plans to revitalize the shellfish industries in the Great South and Peconic Bays and the fight to stop the State of Connecticut from dumping pollutants into the Long Island Sound.

ILWA applauds all of these initiatives, but our main purpose in being there was to see where the county stood regarding the ongoing grease problem. For too long, county officials seemed to be unwilling to face this explosive issue and for the first half hour of his talk, it appeared that Mr. Levy's administration was offering more of the same.

However, we were pleasantly surprised and greatly encouraged when, at last, Levy, addressed the issue, head on. In a brief but encouraging statement, he explained that the county was looking into the possibility of licensing a privately funded grease processing facility to be built on public land as well as millions of dollars of upgrades to the existing water treatment plants. He also announced his intention to fill the vacancies on the Septic Advisory Board. If we have any criticism at all, it would be that Mr. Levy did not mention a time frame for these improvements. However, it's clear that he has done his homework on the issue and has a clear understanding that corrective action is required.

Summer is fast approaching and the population of Eastern Long Island will swell to critical mass. The end result will be that thousands of tons of additional fats, grease and oils (FOG) will find it's way into area septic systems and for now, we have no practical way to deal with it. We are still faced with having to scramble to find treatment plants willing to take our waste grease and with rising fuel costs, trucking the material off the island to facilities and as far away as the Canadian border is obviously not the answer. But it would appear that we finally have a competent and energetic administration that is willing to take on the heavy lifting and our own organization must be ready and willing to work with them.