

## Franklin defends mileage

**NEWPORT** — At a meeting of the Sullivan County delegation in Newport on Oct. 15, Jeff Goff, a member of the Claremont City Council, voiced his concern over the reimbursement and number of trips made between Newport and Concord by State Rep. Peter Franklin, D-Newport. In response to Goff's charges, Rep. Franklin has issued the following statement:

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"Mr. Jeff Goff has been commenting widely in recent days about the amount of time I spend representing my constituents in Newport, Goshen, Washington, Croydon, and Springfield. He apparently believes that a representative should be seen and heard as little as possible in Concord.

I believe Mr. Goff has a limited understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a representative. In January, 2007, I was appointed chairman of the Finance Committee, Division I, and also a member of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee. In Sullivan County, I was elected chairman of the Sullivan County Delegation.

Division I of the Finance Committee is responsible for about one quarter of the entire state budget, totaling well over a billion dollars. As a new chairman, this assignment obviously required a great deal of time and work. And at the same time, as chairman of the Sullivan

County delegation, I was faced with county finances in complete disarray. An unrecognized deficit was becoming painfully obvious. I take my responsibilities very seriously. Over the past two years, I have spent a lot of time on state and county affairs, with much help from many people, and have had a successful two years. Mr. Goff and representatives Rodeschin, Ferland, and Skinder seem to think that a little glib talk is all that is necessary.

Mr. Goff would have you believe that I have driven to Concord just to make money. I sign in each day I go to Concord. The mileage money paid is calculated to cover the operating cost of the average car. If my car cost a bit less than average, there would be a little extra; if it costs a bit more than average, there would be a little shortage.

But after all is said and done, what are we talking about here? Perhaps Mr. Goff thinks I am a slow learner — a couple of

days and some fast talk should have been enough for me. But I think you expect more of me. I believe that you elected me to represent you diligently and to use my best judgment in your interest. If you believe I am not representing you well in Concord, and not representing you well in Sullivan County, then you will tell me on Election day, Nov. 4, and elect the Republicans. If you want me to continue to represent you with diligence and using my best judgment in both state and county matters, then I ask for your vote Nov. 4.

A while back, Mr. Goff would have had you believe that I had violated the right-to-know law. He had the Claremont City Council request that the Attorney General investigate the matter. She did. And the Attorney General wrote back that there had been no violation of the right-to-know law.

There is no merit to this latest allegation of Mr. Goff either."