

District 17 • SUMMER/FALL 2009

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LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

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Legislator D'Amaro is joined by County Executive Steve Levy in announcing the deployment of additional patrol officers to Huntington Station at a press conference in April.



A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

Welcome to the first edition of my online newsletter! With Suffolk County in the midst of an unprecedented fiscal crisis, I recently supported a resolution to suspend the printing and distribution of district-wide mailings, including newsletters, through December 2010. This is expected to save more than \$400,000 and is another example of the Legislature's ongoing efforts to protect taxpayers. However, in an effort to keep the lines of communication open, the next three editions of my newsletter will be available online via my new webpage (see Page 4).

You will be pleased to know that, for the third straight year, the Legislature approved a Capital Budget that held the line on spending. I also led the charge against parks fee increases that place an unfair burden on the backs of those who can least afford to pay. You have my commitment that I will continue to hold the line on taxes, fees and spending.

In addition to fiscal responsibility, neighborhood safety remains one of my top priorities. Earlier this year, in response to concerns about escalating gang violence, I secured the deployment of additional police officers to patrol the Huntington Station community. Initiatives like this, coupled with neighborhood beautification programs like the Huntington Station Happy Helpers (see Page 2), send a clear signal that Huntington Station residents will continue to fight back against those that try to negatively impact our neighborhood safety and pride.

In Babylon, I am pleased that I was able to initiate and sponsor legislation to complete a Sewer Feasibility Study for all remaining Babylon communities.

As always, it remains an honor to serve you, and I encourage you to contact my office at any time should the need arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Lou D'Amaro in black ink.



Huntington Station Happy Helpers

As Americans across the country celebrated Earth Day in April, Legislator D'Amaro joined the Huntington Station Happy Helpers (HSHH) and its founders Heather Carino and Dr. Lehti Laas Ramos in a Spring Planting and Cleanup on New York Avenue in Huntington Station. He is pictured here with his sons Louis and Alex planting flowers around trees and poles fronting local businesses.



Sunset City Civic Association

President Vincent Sciacca and members of the North Babylon-based Sunset City Civic Association, now celebrating their 35th anniversary serving the community, recently invited Legislator D'Amaro to attend their monthly meeting to discuss issues of local and County-wide concern and interest.



Senior Citizen of the Year

William Klein, a Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital volunteer who is Past National President of the World War II Submarine Veterans, was recently honored by Legislator D'Amaro as District 17's 2009 Senior Citizen of the Year. Mr. Klein has logged more than 10,000 hours over the past 15 years driving veterans to the Northport VA Hospital and other locations for regular appointments and special medical treatments.

For Your Information:

Heating Oil Website

Constantly fluctuating heating oil prices and concerns about the availability of price information led Suffolk County Legislators to create a new Home Heating Cost Information Program. The Program gives immediate access to local heating oil company charges and policies in a centralized location.

Under the direction of the Suffolk County Office of Consumer Affairs, the information will be posted online and will soon be fully operational for use by consumers via the County's website: suffolkcountyny.gov. For more information, contact Consumer Affairs at (631) 853-4600.

Response Provides Free Crisis Counseling

During these difficult times when many people are finding it hard to cope, it's important to know that help and assistance is just a phone call or click away. Response of Suffolk County is a free accredited crisis counseling and referral hotline that now offers online assistance as well.

Trained crisis counselors are available on the phone lines 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year at (631) 751-7500. Or, for those who prefer using the internet, Response's new Hear2Help service offers online counseling and referrals from 3 to 9 pm, Monday through Friday at: www.ResponseHotline.org.

Huntington Station Business Incubator Established

As part of the ongoing effort to promote job creation and business growth in one of the County's most economically distressed communities, the Suffolk County Legislature recently approved a \$150,000 appropriation to help fund a business incubator at 1268 New York Avenue in Huntington Station.

Specifically, IR 1095, which was co-sponsored by Legislator D'Amaro and unanimously approved at the Legislature's March 3rd meeting, provides funding to the Town of Huntington Community Development Agency to help construct the incubator site on New York Avenue.

Business incubators seek to create new private sector jobs by growing existing businesses and assisting in the critical start-up period. Some of the

services provided include shared office space for incubator businesses, management training, strategic advice, support staff and equipment, and developing computerized accounting/payroll systems, as well as quantifiable business plans.

"Although most of the attention these days is on the Federal Government when it comes to economic stimulus and job creation, this bill shows that we can still act locally to help Huntington Station businesses and bring jobs to our community," said Legislator D'Amaro.

For more information on this or any other legislative matters, please contact Legislator D'Amaro's office at (631) 854-4433.



Stimson Teacher Honored in Ceremony

Legislator D'Amaro joined fellow Huntington area elected officials, students, school district representatives, firefighters and police officers at a special send off ceremony for Operations Specialist Chief Petty Officer Keith Gunsel, a social studies teacher, coach, advisor, and mentor at Stimson Middle School, who was called to active duty in April to begin training for a 300 day deployment to Iraq. Pictured from left are Huntington Town Councilwoman Susan Berland, Legislator D'Amaro, Stimson Middle School Principal Faye Robbins, Chief Petty Officer Keith Gunsel and Legislator Steven Stern.



Youth Arthritis Advocate Honored

Diagnosed with arthritis when he was just four years old, 9-year old Liam McGlone has spent almost half of his life battling a disease that many think only strikes adults. However, rather than focusing on why he cannot do physical things that others his age take for granted, Liam has spent his time trying to raise awareness about youth arthritis in the hope and belief that one day there can be a cure. In recognition of his efforts, the Huntington resident received a special Proclamation from Legislator D'Amaro in front of the full legislature, his mom, Krista, and Pat McAsey, President of the Long Island Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.



Fire Department Celebrates 106 Years at Parade

Hundreds of spectators lined Oakwood Road and the surrounding area in July to cheer on the Huntington Manor Fire Department and thank them for 106 years of service to the community at the Department's annual Fireman's Fire Parade. Here, Legislator D'Amaro and his son Louis join members of the company just prior to the start of the march.



Advocacy Organization Honors Leg. D'Amaro

In appreciation for his support, Thursday's Child, an HIV/AIDS advocacy, referral, education and outreach organization that has been providing services to Long Islanders for 20 years, presented Legislator D'Amaro with a Community Service Award at the organizations' Spring Champagne Gala. He is pictured here with Program Manager Greg Noone.



Pool Smart Winners

Students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in Deer Park were recently honored by Legislator D'Amaro for participating in the Suffolk County Legislature's "Be Pool Smart" poster contest. Established in 2007, the annual competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety and prevent accidental drownings by creating a poster that illustrates one or more safety tips. Pictured at far right is Michael Strenta whose entry was named second place County winner.



Babylon Downtown Revitalization Project Underway

Continuing their focus on beautifying commercial corridors in the Town, Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone and the Town Board are currently undertaking a project to install new colonial lighting in North Babylon that creates a "downtown" feel in the community. The project was made possible with a grant from Legislator D'Amaro, seen here with Supervisor Bellone in front of one of the new street lights now adorning Deer Park Avenue in North Babylon.



Ms. New York Senior Serves Community

Newly-crowned Ms. New York Senior Gail King, who resides in the 17th Legislative District, recently met with the Legislator to discuss ways that she could use her platform to promote issues such as early cancer detection, animal rescue and inter-generational literacy programs. She is currently gearing up for the Ms. Senior America contest.

Stay Informed!

Visit Legislator D'Amaro's official website:
<http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/do/do17.html>