

Spring 2009 Suffolk County 12th Legislative District

Serving Smithtown, Hauppauge, Lake Ronkonkoma, Nesconset, Lake Grove, Commack and the Village of the Branch

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 156
11787

COMMUNITY REPORT



From Your Suffolk County Legislator

JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.

111 Smithtown Bypass - Suite 120, Hauppauge, NY 11788 (631) 854-3735 john.kennedy@suffolkcountyny.gov

INSIDE THIS REPORT

*Combating Drugs in
our Communities*

-page 2



*Summer
Blood Drive dates*

-page 2

*Infrastructure
Upgrades*

-page 3



*Salute to our
Interns*

-page 4



Leg. Kennedy with Sen. John Flanagan, Councilman Wehrheim and Nesconset Chamber of Commerce members under gazebo at 2008 Summer concert.

Legislator John M. Kennedy along with the Nesconset Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce a summer concert series. The concerts will be held at 7:30PM at the gazebo across from Nesconset Plaza on Smithtown Blvd. The schedule is:

Tuesday, July 7th - That 70's Band

Tuesday, July 14th -
NY's Most Dangerous Big Band

Tuesday, July 21st - Tramps Like Us
(Bruce Springsteen tribute band)

Tuesday, July 28th - Rainout date if needed
Other performances may be scheduled.



During the past year, over 120 Commack residents have become certified in basic CPR and life-saving skills. Working with community activist Carol Miller, Hauppauge Fire Department and Commack Volunteer Ambulance Corps personnel, my staff and I have now hosted four 3-hour, hands-on courses designed to give people basic life-saving skills. Everyone should know what to do in a life-threatening situation. Pool season is starting; let's make this a safe happy and healthy summer. Thanks to Commack Superintendent James Feltman and staff for making Sawmill Intermediate School available. For more information about becoming certified for CPR, please contact my office by phone or email.

COMBATING DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Too many families know the pain of drug abuse and dependence first-hand. Whether it is a teen addicted to prescription medications, a driver with a DWI, or strained program personnel struggling to do more with less, the increasing drug use and sales in our communities can not go unchallenged. Recognizing a need to bring all sectors of our area together, I sponsored a community meeting in Nesconset in October. Over 250 people turned out to hear from local law enforcement personnel and share their stories.

Further efforts were made with a meeting to exchange ideas with school superintendents and law enforcement, and to explore additional ways that Suffolk County and schools could collaborate to combat drug use.

Increased information has led directly to the expansion of the narcotics law enforcement ranks of the 4th Precinct, while at the same time, Neighborhood Watches have been created in increasing numbers. "I am dedicated to using all methods at my disposal to aid in combating drug use, and to send a powerful message to those who would seek out our youth that they will be caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said Leg. Kennedy.

If you have information, it can be anonymously reported to **854-TIPS**. Become involved in the safety of



Legislator Kennedy speaks to members of the Nesconset community at a forum he organized on teen drug abuse. Over 250 members of the community attended.

your neighborhood. Further, Neighborhood Watch information can be obtained by contacting my office, or the 4th Precinct.

Blood in the Streets



Legislator Kennedy would like to announce the kick-off of "Blood in the Streets," the annual summer blood drive in coalition with Long Island Blood Services. This year, the Legislator is aiming to shatter last year's high of 120 pints and reach 150 or more pints. So do your part in giving the gift of life and make it out to at least one of these venues!

Smithtown Day Street Fair - June 7, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 pm.

Commack Ambulance (200 Burr Rd.) - July 2, 3:00- 8:30 p.m.

Ronkonkoma Street Fair (Hawkins Ave.) - Sept. 06

Nesconset Day Street Fair (Nesconset Plaza) - Sept. 13th

Smithtown Hist. Society Fair (Main St. & Rt. 111)- Sept. 20

Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Association Fall Festival (Michael Murphy Memorial Park) - Sept. 26th

Are you caring for a parent or other senior? Do you need a break?

Suffolk County's John J. Foley Adult Day Health Care Program can help.

- NYS Dept of Health Certified.
- Team includes nurses, social work, dietician, recreation and nursing assistants.
- Medication administration and management, daily nutrition support and therapeutic recreation including community outings and spiritual programs.
- Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy and dental, podiatry, vision and mental health services provided on-site.
- Open Monday-Saturday 9AM-4PM. Door-to-door transportation provided with wheelchair accessibility.
- We accept Medicaid, private pay and insurance (check with your provider).
- For more information, please call 631-852-4677 or visit us @ 14 Glover Drive, Yaphank, New York 11980.

Infrastructure Upgrades Throughout District



Leg. Kennedy speaks to children at the Pines Elementary School on Earth Day 2009. The students were taught about the environmental benefits of drinking tap water from reusable containers rather than bottled water. Free reusable bottles were distributed to each child courtesy of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

March 2009, saw the much awaited release of the Smithtown Sewering Feasibility Study. Alternative configurations are now actively being reviewed; financing procurement efforts are underway. Revitalization of the Main Street corridor remains a priority.

Streambed silt remediation in the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue is being pursued through various state and local agency permitting.

Traffic control is being upgraded along Motor Parkway in the Commack area. Exit 55, C.R. 67 is

being rebuilt this year. Capital Project 5118 is in full swing with the re-alignment of Gibbs Pond Road and Rosevale.

Improvements are being sought in the county's bus system, with shelters being requested in the Ronkonkoma and Smithtown areas.

"Preserving, enhancing and upgrading our infrastructure is critical," said Legislator Kennedy. "However, any spending should be tied directly to improving our business climate, to allow our economy to once again become more robust."



Gemstone Regulation

Leg. Kennedy with Pat Byrne, Denis McElligott and Charlie Gardner.

As Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee, it has been my privilege to sponsor legislation to expand holding requirement concerning the second-hand sale of gemstones. Community activist and Financial Services principal Patrick Byrne presented information to the committee regarding scams being run on the public regarding the sale of jewelry.

Working with the Police Department, Consumer Affairs Commissioner Denis McElligott, and the District Attorney, the Legislature passed expanded requirements for merchants to identify gemstone sellers, and to hold the stones for a 21-day time period. "Our law enforcement personnel deserve every tool possible to help combat crime," said Legislator Kennedy. "I thank Mr. Byrne and all community members who continue to bring forward good ideas to keep our community a safe and happy place to live." Upcoming issues for Consumer Protection will include bottle enforcement and review of LIPA rates. Should you have any suggestions, please forward them to our office.

Spotlight On Community Activists



Diane Spitz

Tireless in her efforts, Diane has kept a watchful eye out for the Lily Pond preserve for many years. She collects trash, reports on dumping and represents the 4 Harbors Audubon Society in its efforts to preserve as an aviary the 90 acres of marsh and upland woods. This area is full of wildlife, including numerous species of birds such as Great Horned Owls, raccoons, fox and more. Dedicated volunteers like Diane do invaluable work to assist the Suffolk County Department of Parks in maintaining and supporting the County's extensive parkland holdings.



Ronald Barz

Former Hauppauge Fire Department Chief Ronald Barz is an important voice representing hundreds of Suffolk County volunteer fire fighters. His bi-partisan relationships with elected officials have made him an effective representative for the County's fire fighters. He joined the Hauppauge Fire Department in 1977, served as Engine Company Lieutenant and Captain, and was an Assistant Chief for six years before serving as Chief of the Department for three years. He also served as Department Safety Officer and Commissioner for the Fire District. In addition, he served as a New York State certified Administrator and Safety Officer, and was Vice President and President of the Suffolk County Chief's Council.

Salute to Our Interns



Daniel Chodkowski



Jeff Carey



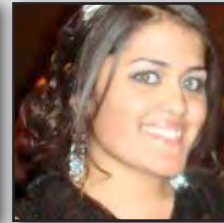
Frank Grucci



Allison Cardinal



Scott Silverman



Saadia Akhtar



David McGarry



John Cheng



Omar Khowaja



Danielle Kane

The Youth are our future. Legislator Kennedy has consistently encouraged students to participate actively in the practice of government. Students from high school level to college graduate level have actively experienced the "Public Service in Action" internship program.

"It is my goal to make governance a hands-on experience and thereby give them the tools to be ardent advo-

ates for life," he said. The students in the photos served as interns in our office, and also serving as interns were the following, whose photos were not available: Christopher Hernandez, Ben Akbulut, Jerry Rosenblum, Kristen P. and Kristen K.

Opportunities always exist. If you have an interest in broadening your horizons or just learning the mechanics of government, please feel free to contact the office at (631) 853-3735.

Legislature to Save Money

by Suspending Printing of Newsletters

Sign up to receive yours via e-mail

In order to save taxpayer dollars during the devastating fiscal crisis currently facing the nation, the Legislature has passed a law to suspend the printing and distribution by mail of district-wide Legislative and County Executive newsletters until January 1, 2011. Legislators will continue to communicate with their constituents through regular mail in re-

sponse to inquiries, as well as through e-mail.

Legislative and executive newsletters are valuable resources for local residents to keep connected with the actions of county government. You can continue to receive your legislator's newsletter in a digital format via e-mail by logging on to the Legislature's web site at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov>

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Housing/Food	854-9547 / 854-9100
Heat Emergencies	854-9935 / 854-9100
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Suffolk County Dept of Social Services	854-9935
Police NON-Emergency	852-COPS
Police Tip-Line	854-TIPS
Public Health Hotline	787-2200
Suffolk County Youth Bureau	853-8270

Memo to Legislator Kennedy

Please use this form to inform us of any comments or concerns. Feel free to use additional paper if necessary. Please return to Legislator Kennedy's office at:

111 Smithtown Bypass, Suite 120, Hauppauge, NY 11788 or fax to 631-854-3744

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____