

District 13 • SPRING 2009
59 Landing Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787
Phone: (631) 854-3900 • Fax (631) 854-3903

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



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

from Suffolk County Legislator
LYNNE C. NOWICK



Community Comes out to Support Collection of Unwanted Medicines

About two years ago, I reached out to hospital officials throughout Suffolk County with the idea of implementing a program to take back unwanted/expired medicines from the community. The intent is to reduce human and environmental risk by protecting the water supply as medications flushed down the drain can seep into our groundwater. St. Catherine of Siena was the first hospital to take back pharmaceuticals as it incorporated a take back program into their annual health fair last fall. I am thrilled that Stony Brook University Medical Center agreed to conduct a similar event at no cost to the taxpayer.



Hospital pharmacists volunteered to identify and collect the medications.

This April, working with Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook University and NY Sea Grant, we held a Return of Unwanted Medications event. Over 140 people brought their expired/unwanted/unused prescription and over-the-counter medications to the Setauket Fire House for a pharmaceutical disposal program. Pharmacists from Stony Brook Medical Center volunteered to identify and record the medications collected and Triumvirate agreed to dispose of everything by incineration. In all, almost 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected. Staff and interns from numerous departments at Stony Brook University and its hospital, as well as my office also volunteered to assist at the event.



NY Sea Grant was a major partner in the collection/disposal event. Pictured to my right is Barbara Branca, NY Sea Grant Communications Manager.

....continued on page 4

County Programs ...

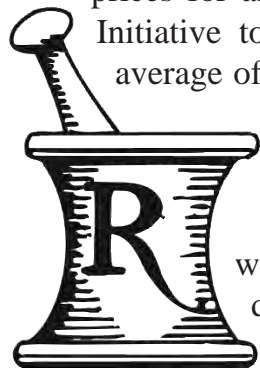
Project Lifesaver - Rescues Lost Loved Ones

I am pleased to announce that the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office has introduced a new program called Project Lifesaver, which gives Sheriffs the ability to locate people who have wandered from their residence and are lost due to cognitive impairments. People enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a personalized battery operated transmitter/bracelet which emits a tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The device is also used by individuals with other cognitive impairments, including autism, and costs about \$290 plus shipping and tax. Batteries must be replaced monthly.

Enrollment applications are available at my district office or can be requested via e-mail at: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov or by calling 852-2405. Applications are reviewed by the Sheriff's Office.

Discount Prescription Program for Suffolk County Residents

In an effort to help Suffolk County residents, the County was able to obtain reduced prescription prices for all its residents – even those with insurance. It is called the Suffolk County Initiative to Provide Taxpayer Savings (SCRIPTS) Program. This program saves an average of 20 percent off of the pharmacy's regular retail prices for prescription drugs.



You are able to use the card to purchase prescriptions that are not covered by your insurance.

The Suffolk SCRIPTS card is free and is accepted at over 300 pharmacies, as well as through the mail. There are no age or income restrictions. All you have to do is ask the pharmacist if they accept the SCRIPTS discount card and you can start saving on your prescription drugs. The cards are available at my district office at 59 Landing Avenue, Smithtown. For more information, please call toll-free 1-877-321-2652 or go to <https://SuffolkSCRIPTS.advancex.com>.

Credits for Caring Scholarship Program

During these hard pressed times, we all need a little extra help. On Long Island there is a definite need for volunteers at vital agencies that provide much needed services to the residents of Suffolk County. The Credits for Caring program will provide scholarships to eligible Suffolk County Community College students to cover tuition for courses when they complete an appropriate number of hours at an approved volunteer agency in Suffolk County. The program is available to all resident students taking six or more credits toward a degree or certificate.



For an application or more information, please call the Suffolk County Executive's Office, which coordinates this program, at 853-4658 or e-mail creditsforcaring@suffolkcountyny.gov.

Community Achievers...

Art in the Alcove

In an effort to keep the cultural arts alive, I initiated a new program at the William Roger's Legislative Building to display sculpture created by Suffolk County artists. Fort Salonga artist David Haussler (rear) was the first to exhibit his Fish Tank II. Pictured with us is Allison Cruz, Executive Director of the Smithtown Town Arts Council. Sculptors can call my office for more information at 854-3900.



Gymnastics Champs

Three girls from my district were part of the team that won the Section XI Suffolk County Girls Gymnastics at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Girls Gymnastics State Championship. In the photo are from left: Brittany Cassar (Kings Park), GinaMarie Marcheschi (Smithtown) and Coach Robin Thomas. Teammate, Tara Greco, of Kings Park, was unable to attend the presentation at the Legislature.



Smithtown Woman Named Suffolk County Woman of Distinction

Dorothy Moloney, a longtime resident of Smithtown, was named the 2009 Woman of Distinction for the 13th Legislative District and selected by the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission as the 2009 Woman of Distinction for Suffolk County. She was chosen for her years of volunteer service and commitment to the community. In the photo with Dorothy are Legislator John Kennedy, Jr. (next to Dorothy) and her husband (next to me) and friends.



Commack Students Take Second Place

My colleagues, Legislators John Kennedy, Jr. (rear, third from right) and Jon Copper, (front, third from left) and I were thrilled to recognize students from Commack who won second place in a national Engineering and Technological competition. They designed and built an accessible work station to meet the needs of a woman who has cerebral palsy and works as a receptionist.



St. James Fire Department Volunteers Honored

I presented proclamations to the EMTs who saved two people on two separate occasions. Through their knowledge, experience, training and dedication these volunteers are able to save lives and make a tremendous contribution to the St. James community.



Legislative Update...

Suffolk First in Nation to Ban Toxic Baby Bottles

Co-sponsored by Legislator Nowick

The Suffolk County Legislature unanimously approved legislation, which was signed into law, to protect babies and toddlers from ingesting the synthetic estrogen Bisphenol-A (BPA), contained in hard plastics used in baby bottles and “Sippy” cups designed for young children.

Silver Alert System in Suffolk County

Co-sponsored by Legislator Nowick

In an effort to protect our seniors and others with cognitive impairments, legislation was signed into law creating the “Silver Alert” program, similar in nature to the Amber Alert System, which allows local law enforcement to disseminate to the media vital information about such individuals who have wandered from their caretakers, in order to aid in the search and safe return of these people.

Heroin Mapping

Co-sponsored by Legislator Nowick

Many of my constituents have expressed their concern regarding the availability of heroin in the community. The Police Department has been aggressively working to stop the sale of drugs and has made some major arrests in this area. They have recently added to their website a mapping section that shows where sales and arrests have taken place. In addition, in conjunction with the District Attorney’s office, they have established a task force to address this problem.

2009 Family Summer Concerts at the Smithtown Library



Rick Larrimore performs as Rod Stewart.

This is the fifth season that we are providing Family Summer Concerts on the lawn of the Smithtown Library. Last year, almost 18,000 people attended the free concerts, which start at 8 p.m. The concert schedule is:

- July 2 Billy Joel Tribute Band: Big Shot
- July 9 Beach Boys Tribute Band: The Driftwoods
- July 16 Oldies Show: Risky Business
- July 23 Four Seasons Tribute Band: Ragdoll
- July 30 Rod Stewart Show: Rick Larrimore
- August 6 Motown Show: Dr. K’s Motown Review
- August 13 Beatles Show: Strawberry Fields
- August 20/27 Rain Dates

continued from page 1...

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) recommends that you do not flush or pour unwanted, unused or expired medications down the drain. Instead, it suggests:

- To avoid accidental misuse of drugs, treat medications (liquids and pills) by adding water and then salt, ashes, dirt, cat litter, coffee grounds or another undesirable substance. Avoid crushing pills as some medications can be harmful in powder form.
- Hide all medications in an outer container, such as a sealable bag, box or plastic tub to prevent discovery and removal from trash. Seal the container with tape.
- Dispose of drugs as close to your trash collection day as possible to avoid misuse.