

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 commu-

nicate with their constituents through regular mail in response 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 providing your e-mail address to Legislature.Newsletter@suffolkcountyny.gov or call 631-852-1300. Newsletters will be posted on Legislator Browning's web site at www.suffolkcountyny.gov/legis/

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.
- Opened 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.



Leg. Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) stands with Girl Scout Troop 1420 to thank the daisy scouts for collecting coats for needy children. Troop 1420 is based out of South Street Elementary School in South Manor. The girls collected donations from friends, family, and neighbors and donated all the coats to Browning's office, which was a drop off location. Leg. Browning and Suffolk County teamed up with Every Child's Dream, Inc. to help provide coats to children throughout the County this winter. Pictured from left to right: Legislator Browning, Gracie, Alexeus, Megan, Anystacya, and Troop Leader Holly Ruland.



This past month members of the Bellport Youth Football League held their annual awards dinner at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. The organization honored Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) with a plaque for the legislator's support of the newly formed non-profit through a \$1,000 grant. The money was used to purchase equipment, which helped offset the costs of league fees for children and their families. The legislator also assisted the organization in obtaining AED devices to help increase the safety of children participating in the league.

Pictured from left to right: Steve Schwicke, Glenn Pepe, Jacquie Schwicke, Legislator Kate Browning, and President Kathleen Leone.

...continued from page 1

county laws. Legislator Browning, civic leaders, and other local elected officials went to Albany in May to attempt to convince upstate and city officials that these laws are needed.

"We need all levels of government working together to bring real change where it is needed," stated Browning. "Suffolk County sent a message to Albany and our Suffolk State delegation responded. Our social services system is broken, and communities are screaming for help. I feel optimistic after our meeting with our state representatives that we might be able to get real action in Albany that will make a real difference in our communities."

Spring 2009 Suffolk County Legislative District # 3

Serving Bellport, Brookhaven, North Bellport, Yaphank, Shirley, Mastic, Mastic Beach, and Moriches as well as portions of Center Moriches, Medford, Coram, Gordon Heights, Middle Island and Ridge.

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COMMUNITY REPORT

From Your
Suffolk County Legislator

KATE BROWNING

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MAMMOGRAPHY VAN

The Suffolk Co. Mammography Van offers no cost or low cost Mammograms to residents who call 852-1300 to make an appointment.

DATE	LOCATION
Thurs., Aug. 13	King Kullen Shopping Center in Shirley
Thurs., Sept. 17	Waldbaums Grocery Store, Center Moriches
Thurs., Oct. 15	Bellport Village Municipal Parking Lot,
Thurs., Nov. 19	Kohls Shopping Center, Shirley
Thurs., Dec. 10th	Bellport Outlets #2, Station Rd, Bellport

Legislator Kate Browning Travels to Albany to Fight for Our Neighborhoods

Organizes Bus Trip of Civic Leaders to Lobby for Needed Legislation



Browning spearheaded two laws, which passed in 2008, to reform how the Department of Social Services houses clients receiving rental assistance. The first law requires the department to prove that any housing accommodations have certificates of occupancy and rentals permits before allowing clients to move in and make payments. The second law reins in the amount of money going to a single

family home by restricting the department from paying more than 20 percent of the fair market rental rate for a home housing DSS clients. Both laws are targeting a system that has allowed slumlords to take advantage of tax payer dollars without any accountability.

However, New York State trumps county law pertaining to social services laws, and prevented Suffolk County from enforcing Brown-

ing's policies. In response, Legislator Browning lobbied her colleagues at the state level to pass legislation in Albany allowing Suffolk County to implement her initiatives.

Assemblyman Fred Thiele (R-Sag Harbor), Assemblyman Marc Alessi (D-Wading River), and Senator Brian Foley (D-Blue Point) responded by sponsoring three resolutions that mirror

continued on page 4...



Browning Makes it Happen!

Montauk Highway Project Finally Underway

Legislator Has Pushed Project Forward

Legislator Kate Browning hailed the beginning of the long-anticipated project to enhance traffic flow, reduce gridlock and improve safety along a nearly two-mile stretch of Montauk Highway in Shirley and Mastic, a project she vowed to move forward when she was elected to represent the third legislative district.

“This work was needed 20 years ago, and when I took office I promised to move it forward,” stated Legislator Browning. “Our community is going to benefit greatly from these much needed improvements. Not only will congestion be relieved, but pedestrians will be able to walk safely throughout the Montauk Highway business district, and I know everyone will enjoy the beautification improvements once the project is complete. “This is a critical step in the revitalization of the Montauk Highway business district. There is much more important work to do, and I will keep working with merchants, civic leaders and other branches of government to make a revitalized business district a reality for Mastic and Shirley.”

Work started with the relocation of

- utilities. The project will ultimately:
- Provide two lanes of traffic in each direction, with a center turning lane, from William Floyd to just east of the Southport Shopping Center;
 - Provide a continuous center turning lane throughout the 1.7 miles covered by the project;



- Construct sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, to enhance safety and to allow for pedestrian flow through the business districts;
- Incorporate aesthetic plantings along the entire 1.7 miles project;
- Re-configure lights and lanes to

prevent left-hand turns off Montauk Highway onto William Floyd Parkway. Legislator Browning listened to the concerns of residents throughout the process, including making sure roundabouts were eliminated after overwhelming objections from the community. She promised to make sure residents and merchants are heard at every step in the process.

The \$22 million, 18-month project is eighty percent federally funded, which was secured by Congressman Tim Bishop.

“Unfortunately, as with any road construction project, there will be an unavoidable inconvenience to the residents who travel Montauk Highway often,” concluded Browning. “However, the Department of Public Works has taken the necessary steps to make the project run as smoothly as possible for the businesses and drivers, and

the final result will help move this community forward in the right direction. I caution all residents to be careful and patient over the next eighteen months as we work towards a better and brighter future.”

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Leg. Browning at 631-852-1300.

Browning Continues Battle To Clean Up Waterways

New Projects Aim to Cut Storm Water Runoff and Track Harmful Leachate Plume

Legislator Kate Browning continued her ongoing battle to clean up our failing waterways by shepherding through the County Legislature the second phase of a program to prevent road runoff and harmful pollutants from entering the endangered Forge River, as well as providing resources from the Suffolk County Health Department to aid Brookhaven Town in tracking and remediating a harmful plume from the Brookhaven Town Landfill.

A \$647,500 appropriation from Suffolk County will be matched by funds from New York State to provide leaching basins, oil/grit separators, storm water treatment units and an infiltrator basin along County Road 80. This project will treat all of the runoff from a watershed area totaling 9.95 acres that currently discharges directly into the Forge River. Legislator Browning said the county has committed to a monthly water quality monitoring program at twenty sites along the Forge River corridor.

“The battle to reverse the degradation of the Forge River is a continuing

effort, and one that I will continue to fight along with community activists so residents can once again enjoy the pleasures and benefits of a healthy waterway,” said Legislator Browning. “This project will result in a reduction of approximately 66 pounds of Nitrogen, 8.7 pounds of Phosphorus and 3.3 tons of sediment per year.”

In another area of Browning’s district, the Beaver Dam Working Group has been formed to pool resources from Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven in order to determine how far a leachate plume emanating from the town landfill has spread. County health officials discovered remnants from the plume in Beaver Dam Creek while conducting standard water quality tests in 2008. Legislator Browning immediately called for an investigation and Councilwoman Connie Kepert (D-Middle Island) brought town waste management officials and local environmentalist to the table.

The county and town have re-opened old monitoring wells and constructed new ones throughout the Beaver Dam Creek and



Leg. Browning reviews progress on the Forge River with community member.

Carman’s River Watersheds. Over the next several months testing will determine the magnitude of the plume and then a plan to remediate it will be put in place. “Restoring the health of our south shore tributaries is vital to the overall health of the Great South Bay and to the quality of life on our South Shore,” stated Browning.

TAKING BACK OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) continues her fight to take back our neighborhoods from predatory absentee landlords.

Federal funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and Legislator Browning has ensured that these funds will be used to sell properties as owner-occupied housing for first-time homebuyers. Suffolk County has received approximately \$5.7 million, which will be used in East Patchogue, Coram, Medford, Mastic, Mastic Beach, and Shirley.

But the battle to reclaim our neighborhoods needs to be addressed on multiple fronts according to Legislator Browning. In a separate initiative, she worked with the county and civic leaders to develop a list of privately owned properties that have been vacant eyesores in her district for years. This program will utilize county money to purchase homes from banks and will work with the Long Island Housing Partnership to rehabilitate the homes before selling them to first-time homebuyers.

“These initiatives are designed to encourage home ownership by eliminating dilapidated homes that have brought down property values and ruined our quality of life for years,” said Legislator Browning. “We are fighting to take back our neighborhoods and both these programs are going to revitalize communities that need it the most.”



Advocating for Child Care

Legislator Browning recently traveled to Albany with Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher to advocate for increased funding for child care in the 2009 state budget and their efforts were successful as Suffolk will receive 19 percent more funding this year, increasing its allocation to \$35.6 million, and will be able to begin to help the more than 1,000 families on the waiting list for child care subsidies. Child care is vital to keeping parents working rather than having to stay home to care for their children. Without access to this crucial service many Suffolk residents would be forced to stop working and go on welfare. The trip was organized by the Child Care Council of Suffolk, and Leg. Browning was joined by various child care providers in her district. Assemblyman Fred Thiele was among the legislators the group spoke to during their visit.