

District 13 • SUMMER/FALL 2011  
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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

from Suffolk County Legislator

## LYNNE C. NOWICK



## Message from Legislator Nowick

Dear Neighbor,

In 2011, I began my tenth year as your Suffolk County Legislator. It has been an absolute pleasure to represent you and assist you during this time. Once again, I am happy to report that the Legislature's Presiding Officer William Lindsay appointed me Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee and a member of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy and Ways & Means Committees. I am also honored to serve on the Special Ethics Commission Review Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature and the Operating Budget Working Group, which addresses the 2012 budget.

As a member of the Ethics Commission Review Committee, I am proud to report that after extensive meetings, our work has resulted in important legislation creating a new Suffolk County Board of Ethics and establishing a new code of ethics for the County's public servants, while providing improved financial disclosure statement forms for County employees and officials.

In this issue, I have an extensive update about our Heroin Opiate Epidemic Task Force efforts to deal with this deadly issue and a list of resources where you can get help for treating an addiction.

For several years now, I have been working to educate consumers about the potential dangers of energy drinks and I am proud to say that through my efforts, beginning next year, warnings and the total caffeine content will now appear on the labels of energy drinks nationwide and in Canada. More information is in this newsletter.

Information about the Legislature, resolutions, and committees can be found on the Legislature's website at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov> In addition, you can listen to committee and general meetings by clicking on the audio button on the home page of the website.

I look forward to serving you and please remember that my office is open for you to share your concerns, ask questions or seek assistance on any county matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne C. Nowick".

**Lynne C. Nowick**  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



# Government News...

## New Ethics Proposals

As a long-time public servant, having worked in the court system, as the Smithtown Receiver of Taxes and now as a county legislator, I am honored that I was asked to serve on a bi-partisan panel along with Presiding Officer William Lindsay, Majority Leader Jon Cooper, Minority Leader John Kennedy to examine our current ethics' codes and financial disclosure procedures.

After meeting for more than a year, we have introduced two pieces of legislation that would abolish the current commission and create a new five-member board as a truly independent entity. For the first time, deadlines are established for the Board to render advisory opinions, as well as to make ethics opinions public. The other measure would create an expanded code of ethics for county employees and require certain county officials to file county financial disclosure forms.

I am proud of the work that we have done to revamp and improve the ethics and financial disclosure rules. In addition, I think the proposed legislation



*In August, members of the Ethics Commission Review committee, pictured from left, Majority Leader Jon Cooper, Legislator Lynne C. Nowick, Presiding Officer William Lindsay, and Minority Leader John Kennedy, announced two new bills to improve the code of ethics for Suffolk County officials.*

will help public servants avoid any potential conflict of interest and that the responsibilities and duties of the new Board of Ethics are clearly defined.

## Energy Drinks will carry Warnings Labels and Caffeine Content

I am pleased to announce that I have been successful in working with some major manufacturers of energy drinks and the American Beverage Association (ABA) resulting in their agreement to include a warning on the label that "these products are not intended for children, pregnant or nursing women or those sensitive to caffeine." In addition, the total product caffeine content will be included on the label. Currently, most energy drinks do not include this information on the label. Late last year I introduced two separate bills that addressed the sale of energy drinks in Suffolk County. My proposed legislation called for a ban on the sale of energy drinks to minors and another to post warning signs in stores to alert consumers to the health risks associated with energy drinks.



*Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick (center) was joined by her colleagues (from left) Legislators Thomas Cilmi, Sarah Anker, Wayne Horsley, Edward Romaine, Vivian Viloría Fisher, DuWayne Gregory (rear, right) and Jay Schneiderman as well as representatives from alcohol and drug education, prevention and treatment organizations at a press conference about the new labels for energy drinks.*

I have been striving to create an industry-wide standard with regard to labeling and marketing the product to children to achieve greater awareness and more responsible marketing. I believe we have accomplished this as the major manufacturers of energy drinks have agreed to examine their labeling and marketing practices. This is an important first step to achieve greater awareness and more responsible marketing.

The American Beverage Association's guidelines take effect now and once a manufacturer's current product line is depleted, the new cans will have the warning and caffeine content on energy drinks sold throughout the United States and in Canada. I am pleased that this labeling requirement will be on cans nationally and in Canada as a means to protect our youth and to encourage responsible consumption.

Members of the American Beverage Association that will follow the adopted guidelines include such companies as Red Bull, Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Hanson Beverage Company, which sells the line of Monster energy drinks, will also comply even though they are not a member of the ABA. Together, these manufacturers comprise approximately 95% of the energy drink market.

In addition to the aforementioned labeling changes, the ABA Guidelines that the energy drink manufacturers will follow include:

- "Energy drink producers should not promote energy drinks for mixing with alcohol nor should they market energy drinks to counter the effects of alcohol consumption."
- "Energy drinks are functional beverages which differ from sports drinks and should not be marketed as sports drinks."
- "Energy drinks should not be sold nor marketed in schools (K-12)."

Beyond the ABA guidelines, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be engaged in an effort to define these products. Although scientists have asked for further regulation of these products by the FDA, they have received little response. Now the industry itself, to their credit, is requesting that the FDA get involved. Red Bull and Coca-Cola will jointly reach out to the FDA requesting that the Administration develop a statement of identity for energy drinks. This will help to clarify what products fall into this category and what they can and cannot contain. I welcome the FDA's involvement in looking at energy drink issues and feel greater participation from the agency is long overdue.

Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has released a new clinical report that outlines how these products are being misused and recommends they be eliminated from a child's diet. "Kids should not consume energy drinks, and rarely need sports drinks," says AAP.

I will remain vigilant and continue to monitor the industry to ensure that adopted guidelines are followed and will seek further study of possible health risks associated with these products.

## Heroin/Opiate Task Force Update

Last year I co-sponsored legislation to create a *Heroin Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel*, comprised of treatment professionals, prevention experts, health care executives and a representative from the School Superintendent Association. They met for more than six months and held two public hearings and issued their final report in December of 2010.

The panel had 48 recommendations that included implementing evidenced-based prevention programs in every school; exploring the use of Suffolk County Police Department's drug sniffing K-9 unit for school inspections; conducting drug testing as part of sports physicals in schools; increasing public education campaigns; better prescription monitoring; distributing free drug testing kits; improving the availability of outpatient treatment services; investigating the feasibility of a recovery schools; and many more. To obtain a copy of the report go to <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/> and click on Recent Reports.

I believe that we picked the best and the brightest to serve on this panel and I commend them for their dedication. In fact, this June I introduced legislation to extend the term of the panel for another year

as they are interested in pursuing the implementation of some of their recommendations. I applaud Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, Executive Director of Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, who chairs the task force, and all of the members for their hard work and conscientious efforts. They truly are a group of dedicated and committed professionals.

In addition, they prepared the following article for all legislators to include in their newsletters in order to help the public understand the issue and how the county is working to find solutions and meet the needs of constituents.

## Tackling the Heroin Epidemic

The Heroin Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel gathered statistical information related to drug abuse and treatment among adolescents and young adults and held two public meetings at which task force members heard wrenching stories from parents about teens' addiction and the parents' inability to know what to do and where to find appropriate help.

Currently, no crisis center that would provide medical monitoring and shelter for the addicted adolescent until a physician could medically evaluate them exists. Unless an addicted person is determined to be in immediate medical danger, there is no cause to hospitalize the person and they are referred for follow up out-patient treatment. However, in parents' eyes their child needs immediate medical attention.

It has to do with the definition of detox as opposed to rehabilitation, according to the Advisory Panel, and the fact that the general population is unaware of the difference. Further, insurers will only reimburse for medical attention and not a level of care meant to monitor and stabilize.

The Advisory Panel offers the following as guidance for parents:

Learn the types and levels of services available along the prevention, treatment and recovery spectrum. For example:

*In-patient Detox* treatment is generally done in a hospital based setting when acute medical intervention is necessary to stabilize an addicted patient. It is appropriate for someone whose withdrawal poses a medical danger in itself.

*Out-Patient Detox* treatment is done with medical supervision and possibly medication, however, does not require the patient to be admitted into a hospital setting. Private medical professionals as well as some out-patient facilities provide this service.

*Rehabilitation* treatment provides short or long term inpatient care stabilizing the patient and preparing them for on-going out-patient treatment and self-help support.

*Out-patient* treatment can be intensive or less intensive with multiple days and hours of daily to weekly sessions often including education and group work.

The level of care an individual requires should be done by a trained professional. All New York State Office of Alcohol Substance Abuse Services certified programs assess for the level of care necessary and make the appropriate referrals accordingly.

### Need Help?

If you are seeking assistance with a drug or alcohol problem, the following referral resource list has been prepared by the Communities of Solutions of Suffolk County, a group of prevention and treatment providers, social workers, health officials and educators. The New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services suggested that counties throughout the state of New York establish Communities of Solutions to ensure that communities have access to appropriate prevention, treatment and recovery services.

**Suffolk County Communities of Solutions**  
**Drug, Alcohol & Problem Gambling Adolescent and Young Adult Treatment Referral List for**  
**Smithtown and Neighboring Towns**

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Hopeline: 1-877-846-7369  
 Suffolk County Department of Health Division of Community Mental Hygiene: 631-853-8500

**Crisis:**

Catholic Charities Talbot House	589-4144	Bohemia	18+
ELIH Quannacut	477-1000	Greenport	18+
Long Island Center for Recovery	728-3100	Hampton Bays	18+

**Detoxification:**

ELIH Quannacut	477-8877	Greenport	18 +
South Oaks	264-4000	Amityville	18+

**Residential:**

Daytop Village	351-7112	Huntington	13+
Outreach House	231-3232	Brentwood	13+
Phoenix Houses of Long Island, Inc.	306-5710	Brentwood	14+

**Inpatient:**

Charles K. Post Addiction Treatment Center	434-7200	West Brentwood	19+
ELIH Quannacut	477-8877	Greenport	18 +
Long Island Center for Recovery	728-3100	Hampton Bays	18+
Seafield Treatment Center	288-1122	Westhampton Beach	16+
South Oaks	264-4000	Amityville	18+
St. Charles Hospital	474-6233	Pt. Jefferson	19+

**Outpatient Day Rehab with Alternative Schooling:**

Daytop Village	351-7112	Huntington	13+
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**Problem Gambling - Outpatient:**

Gampro – The Pederson- Krag Center	920-8053	Huntington	12+
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**Drug & Alcohol - Outpatient:**

Catholic Charities	543-6200	Commack	16+
Center for Addiction Recovery and Empowerment - CARE	532-5234	Islandia	18+
Community Cnslg. Svcs. of Ronkonkoma	471-3122	Ronkonkoma	17+
Employee Assistance Resource	361-6960	Smithtown	18+
Impact Counseling Services, Inc.	467-3182	Lake Grove	16+
Pederson-Krag Center	920-8324	Smithtown	13+
Sanctuary East, Ltd.	224-7700	East Islip	13+
The Kenneth Peters Center for Recovery	273-2221	Hauppauge	18+
Town of Islip-Access	224-5330	Islip	12+
Town of Smithtown Horizons	360-7578	Smithtown	12+

# Community Achievers

## Legislator Nowick Invites Pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fort Salonga to say the Invocation at the Legislature's General Meeting



At the May General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, Legislator Nowick invited Pastor Robert Schoepflin of the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fort Salonga to say the invocation. Each legislator is assigned a date by the Presiding Officer to invite a member of the clergy from his or her district to say the opening prayer for each General Meeting of the Legislature.

Reverend Schoepflin has served Abiding Presence since 1996 and was installed as the congregation's senior pastor in January 2001. Prior to coming to Fort Salonga, he served at congregations in Islip and in Manhattan.

## County Legislator Nowick Recognizes Winners in Brookhaven Lab's Science Fair



At the June General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature in Hauppauge, Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick congratulated Peyton Schilling (left) as the first-grade winner of the Brookhaven National Laboratory's Annual Science Fair. Peyton attends the Bellerose Avenue School in East Northport and lives in Northport.

Last summer Peyton was diagnosed with celiac disease requiring that she be on a gluten free diet. Early in the school year, her teacher asked her if she could use Paper Mache and Play Doh. Her doctor advised against it since flour will make children with celiac very sick. Peyton decided to find a product that would make

the best gluten free Paper Mache. For her science project, she gathered several gluten free flours and cornmeal and mixed them with warm water. She blew up three balloons and applied strips of newspaper dipped in the mixture to each one. After the products dried, Peyton concluded that Bob's Red Mill Gluten Free Pizza Crust made the best Paper Mache.



Also at the June Legislative Meeting, Legislator Lynne C. Nowick presented a proclamation to Amanda Osman (right) as the fifth grade winner of the Brookhaven National Lab's Annual Science Fair. Amanda is a student at the Burr Intermediate School in Commack and a resident of Commack.

Amanda's science project was in response to her concerns for the plants and animals affected by last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. She was interested in the cleanup process and used that as the basis for her project. She selected three synthetic materials and eight natural products. In a Pyrex dish she added vegetable oil and water and tested each fabric three times. The result was that the synthetic materials absorbed the oil better than the natural materials. Micronized Polyurethane, a synthetic product, was the best material as it soaked up all of the oil and none of the water.

## Community Achievers *continued...*

### St. James Woman Named Suffolk County's Senior of the Year



Xina Nair (center) is presented with a proclamation from Legislator Lynne C. Nowick (right) and is also joined by Pegi Orsino, Executive Director of RSVP, at a recognition ceremony.

I am pleased to announce that my constituent, who I nominated for the **County's Senior of the Year**, has won that distinction. Ms. Xina Nair of St. James is a volunteer with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) where she has logged

over 1,000 volunteer hours since joining in 2008. On behalf of RSVP, Ms. Nair visits isolated seniors in the community for tea and conversation, as well as calling seniors at home to check on their wellbeing.

She also assists patients with their physical exercise at the Parkinson's Therapy Center. In addition, Ms. Nair speaks at libraries and senior centers on topics such as decluttering your home, care giving resources and medication management. She recently became a peer leader so that she could co-lead six week workshops in *Living Healthy with Better Choices*, a series devoted to empowering people with chronic conditions from the University of Stanford.

Xina Nair is a compassionate individual who embodies what active aging should be and I am thrilled that she is Suffolk County's Senior of the Year.

### Legislator Nowick cuts the Ribbon at the Re-Opening of the Commack Library

Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick was the keynote speaker at the grand re-opening of the Commack Branch of the Smithtown Library District. This library was established in 1915 as a private lending library as part of the Commack Neighborhood Association. As the community grew, so did the library with a second branch on Walter Court in Commack. In 1968, a new enlarged library was constructed at its current site on Indian Head Road. The building is environmentally friendly as it was designed and constructed using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.



Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick (center) is joined by Legislator John Kennedy (next to her), several library trustees and Robert Lusak, Library Director, (left, rear) at the grand re-opening of the Commack Library.