

District 17 • SPRING 2012

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LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

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A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the people of the 17th Legislative District for recently re-electing me to a fourth term in the Suffolk County Legislature. I am honored to represent each and every one of you and I truly appreciate the trust you have placed in me to be your representative.

As my new term unfolds, I realize that there will be many challenges facing Suffolk County. Given the slumping economy, some very difficult decisions lie ahead as we in government try to protect middle class taxpayers while continuing to deliver essential government services to the public and helping those in need.

Fortunately, Presiding Officer William Lindsay has appointed me to serve on several vital legislative committees that will help me protect your interests in County government. I was named chairman of the prestigious Budget and Finance Committee, which will allow me to continue my focus on protecting taxpayers and controlling the size of government. As Committee Chairman, the residents of Suffolk County have my commitment that I will use my position to advance these goals while at the same time working cooperatively with our new County Executive Steve Bellone to find common sense solutions to Suffolk's budget challenges.

In addition to chairing the Budget and Finance Committee, I was also appointed to the Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee, where I remain Vice-Chairman for the 7th consecutive year, the newly formed Human Services Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

I am excited to continue my service on the Environment Committee where I remain committed to building on Suffolk's historic open space acquisition and ground water protection programs. I also look forward to joining both the Human Services and Public Safety Committees for the first time. During these difficult economic times, it is imperative that the County continue providing essential social safety net and police services to protect our residents. I am especially interested in using my position on the Public Safety Committee to ensure that our communities receive the attention and resources they need to successfully combat crime and gangs.

Again, thank you for re-electing me to represent you in County government. My door is always open should you need any type of assistance. As always, my staff and I are here to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou D'Amaro".

Students Embark on a Presidential Journey

Legislator D'Amato helped Chestnut Hill Elementary School students "Book a Trip with the Presidents" when he recently participated in the Half Hollow Hills School District's Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Community Reader Event. Legislator D'Amato read a book about President John F. Kennedy to 5th grade classes. He also shared additional insight and answered student's questions about the 35th President.



County Executive Steve Bellone (right) invited Legislator D'Amato to join him as he signed the bill to establish a fair sewer connection fee agreement for Cannon USA's new Melville headquarters.

Bringing Jobs to Suffolk County

In this tough economy job, growth is a top priority, which is why I was so proud that the first bill our new County Executive Steve Bellone signed into law was a proposal I sponsored to establish a fair sewer connection fee agreement for Canon U.S.A Inc.'s new national headquarters in Melville. The bill incentivizes the construction of a new 200,000 square foot expansion to the 668,296 square foot facility that is presently being built and encourages Canon to create even higher paying positions for our residents. Canon's relocation to Melville is projected to inject between \$700 million and \$1.3 billion into the local economy, and I look forward to working with the County Executive on future projects to make Suffolk even more business friendly.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

M'Yad L'Yad: Long Island's Helping Hands

M'Yad L'Yad- Long Island's Helping Hands serves the disadvantaged, disabled, elderly and others who are in need of financial and emotional support. The organization provides assistance beyond basic necessities to build the self-esteem of needy Long Island residents and improve their quality of life.



Recipients are directly matched with sponsors who send support packages at least four times per year. For families who are struggling to pay the rent and buy basic necessities, packages from their sponsors provide useful "extras" such

as toys, books, clothes, school supplies, and more.

The non-denominational program is anonymous, yet personal. Though last names and addresses are not shared,

sponsors are highly encouraged to include correspondence in their packages, which provides emotional support for struggling Long Islanders who are often socially isolated. Presently,

several families are yearning for sponsors, so if you are interested in helping support this organization, or know a family in need of assistance, please contact M'Yad L'Yad at (631) 486-6636 or visit myadlyad.org.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Melville Fire Captain

Melville Volunteer Fire Department members invited Legislator D'Amato to join in honoring Robert J. Earley, Captain of the Melville Fire Department Fire Police Squad, for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. The prestigious award, which has only four prior recipients, recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, dedication and service. A 49-year active member of the Melville Volunteer Fire Department, Captain Earley responds to more than 500 alarms per year. He is also a former Melville Fire Marshall and retired Town of Huntington Fire Marshall who was previously recognized as my 2009 Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Worker of the Year. Congratulations Captain!



Huntington Station Action NOW Wants Your Help

The Huntington Station Action NOW Coalition is working on creative new ideas to revitalize Huntington Station. The goal of the Coalition is to bring interested people together in a collaborative effort aimed at identifying priorities and implementing improvements to enhance the local community. I am Co-Chairman of the Coalition's Funding and Resources Subcommittee along with my colleague Legislator William Spencer. I invite anyone who is interested in helping further our goals to join the Coalition. Subcommittees include: Coalition of Clergy, Professional Volunteer Corps, Coalition Awareness Campaign, Funding & Resources Committee, Housing & Code Enforcement, Policing & Enforcement, Community Organization, and Education, Human & Social Services. Contact my office at (631) 854-4433 for more details.



New Honor Society Members Inducted

Congratulations to the 46 Deer Park High School students who were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) in December. Legislator D'Amato presented each new member with a special Proclamation following his keynote speech in which he encouraged the students to continue their community service and leadership even after they graduate and pursue other endeavors. Established in 1921, the NHS honors those students who have demonstrated excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character, according to the organization's charter. It is estimated that more than 1 million students participate in NHS activities.



Reverend Opens Meeting

At the invitation of Legislator D'Amato, Reverend Rebecca Segers of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow in Melville recently opened a general meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature with a stirring and inspirational non-denominational invocation. Reverend Segers is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a past president of the Huntington Clergy Association. She is also active in the Presbytery of Long Island and the Long Island Multi-faith Forum.

**Need Assistance?
Call the District Office at (631) 854-4433**

Rotary Club Inducts Legislator D'Amaro

Melville Rotary Club members recently named Legislator D'Amaro an honorary member, inducting him into the service club during a special ceremony. Working under the motto "Service Above Self," Rotary International is the world's first service club organization with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide.



Legislator D'Amaro has served as keynote speaker at several Rotary club events, presenting information and answering questions about Suffolk County issues of interest to local business leaders. In December, Legislator D'Amaro joined the Melville Rotary to show his support for the organization which was recognized as a local leader in community service by the Long Island business group Advancement for Commerce, Industry & Technology (ACIT). Current President Dr. Veronica Henry and past President JoAnn Slavin invited him to become an honorary member.

Whitman Hosts Home Show

Walt Whitman High School's Home Show, a preliminary round of the New York State Field Band Conference competition, has become an annual showcase event for local and regional marching bands to perform their top musical selections in advance of the highly anticipated New York State Conference Championships. To help kick-off this year's program, Legislator D'Amaro joined and welcomed the Wildcats Marching Band and South Huntington School District students, parents, teachers, administrators and board members on the Walt Whitman High School football field in Huntington Station.



Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition Presents Award

Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition (BBCC) President Tess Helfman, BBCC Be Smart about Your Health program presenter Christine Bentley and Be Smart about Your Health program coordinator Beverly Flaherty recently presented Legislator D'Amaro with a Certificate of Appreciation for his continued support of the not-for-profit organization's programs. The BBCC members surprised him with the honor just prior to a legislative committee meeting.



Commencement of Pinelawn Road Project on the Horizon

The first steps toward the long awaited reconstruction of Pinelawn Road (County Road 3) are set to commence in 2012. Later this year, the Suffolk County Department of Public Works will issue Requests for Proposals (RFP's) to prospective bidders. Once the lowest responsible bidder has been selected, construction can begin. Pinelawn Road is one of the most heavily travelled thoroughfares between the Towns of Babylon and Huntington. The project consists of multiple phases impacting different sections of the road. The first phase will realign the existing offset intersection at Conklin Avenue/Long Island Avenue at its intersection with Pinelawn Road in East Farmingdale. The next phase will be the reconstruction of the road from the Ruland Road/Colonial Springs Road intersection to the vicinity of Corporate Center Drive in Melville. Finally, the project calls for the widening of the side streets adjacent to the Ruland Road/Colonial Springs Road intersection between Baylis Road east to Little East Neck Road. Once complete, the project will improve overall safety and reduce traffic congestion on this critical north-south artery.