



*Community Report  
from your Suffolk  
County Legislator  
Steve Stern*

*April 2013*

2013 Committee  
Assignments

**Chairman:**

Veterans & Seniors

**Vice-Chairman:**

Public Works &  
Transportation

**Vice-Chairman:**

Ways & Means

**Member:**

Economic  
Development &  
Energy

**Member:**

Parks & Recreation

*Dear Neighbors:*



*I am pleased to send you my April newsletter as part of my on-going commitment to keeping our community informed about issues that are important to all of us. Please know that my door is always open and that my staff, Deborah Harris, Mary Young, Bryan Galgano, and I are always available to assist you. Feel free to stop by our district office, call, e-mail or write and we will be pleased to address your concerns. Our office is located at 1842 E.*

*Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743. You can reach us by phone at (631) 854-5100 or by e-mail at [steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.*



## ***Legislator Stern Strengthens Penalties for Hit and Run Drivers***

I was proud to join with Legislator Kate Browning and my colleagues in the Suffolk County Legislature in co-sponsoring a critical initiative to strengthen penalties on those who leave the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or a fatality. Recent tragedies in Brooklyn and in our own communities in Suffolk County have demonstrated the need for tougher penalties for drivers who flee the scene of an accident. This new law, supported by Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota, will authorize law enforcement to seize vehicles involved in hit and run accidents. Many hit & run incidents involve drivers impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. Under current law, a driver who flees the scene can only be charged with a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by no more than one year in jail. Intoxicated or impaired drivers can be charged with a Class E felony, providing incentive for an impaired driver to flee. This new provision will help deter drivers from leaving the scene of an accident. “I am proud to join with my colleagues in sponsoring this important initiative to punish those who leave the scene of an accident and to help protect all who travel on Suffolk County roadways,” Legislator Stern said.

## ***Month of the Military Child Event on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>***



April is the “*Month of the Military Child*,” recognizing the sacrifices made by the children of the brave men and women serving our great nation. I will be hosting an event at Monster Mini-Golf in Deer Park on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12 pm for children of active duty military. John Nicolette and Steve Gramolini have graciously donated the use of their fantastic facility. As Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, I have the great honor to work with and for our military members and their families and am acutely aware of the immense sacrifices they

make on a daily basis. It is vitally important to support these families and their children, not just with words, but with action. I am pleased to host this event for the children and their families as a way to give back and let them know we support them. Please RSVP to my office at 631-854-5100.



## *April is Autism Awareness Month*

In 2007, I sponsored legislation marking April as Autism Awareness Month in Suffolk County to help



raise awareness and educate our community about Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities which affect as many as 1 in 88 children. Together with the Suffolk County Police Athletic League (PAL) Special PAL program and Nassau County PAL Special Needs Unit, Half Hollow Hills Youth Lacrosse (HHHYL) hosted a

special “Dust-Off” game with the Garden City Challenger team to raise awareness of programs available for young people with special needs. These programs not only provide young people with the opportunity to participate in a wide range of athletic events, they also provide support for their families. Special thanks to Det. Lt. Robert Donohue, Commanding Officer, Community Outreach Bureau, Police Officer Rich Gorgone, Director, Suffolk County Special PAL, James Wallace, Coach, Hills Challenger Lacrosse, and Brian Collins, Coach, Garden City Challenger Lacrosse and to all of the athletes and their families. For more information about Special PAL programs please visit <http://scspecialpal.com/>

## *Bronze Grave Markers*

As Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, I would like to advise veterans and their families that the Veterans Administration provides free bronze medallions to mark the graves of veterans interred in private cemeteries. The veteran must have died on or after November 1, 1990. To obtain an application for a marker, please visit the VA website: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). Type vaf 40-1330 in the search bar located at the upper right of the homepage and you will be directed to a link to the form. I encourage all those who are eligible to obtain these medallions, which serve to honor the sacrifice and dedication of our veterans and remind us of their service to our great nation.



## ***Legislator Stern Warns Residents About Deed Scams***

Residents should not purchase certified copies of their deed from private companies sending solicitations by mail that suggest that they must purchase a copy of their deeds to avoid identity theft. County Clerk Judith Pascale has worked with the Attorney General's Office and the State Legislature to regulate these solicitations. However, these companies continue to send alarming mailings advising residents that they should spend between \$29 and \$129 to obtain copies of their deeds, 1,200% more than the cost of obtaining a deed from the County Clerk's Office, which will provide homeowners with a certified copy of their deed for \$5.00, including postage and handling.

Residents who receive solicitation letters should disregard them. Residents wishing to obtain a copy of their deed should contact the County Clerk's Office Deed Hotline at 631-852-2000 x899 for additional information.

## ***Pet Supply Drive***



Our office is collecting supplies for The Little Shelter Animal Adoption center in Huntington. One of Long Island's oldest no-kill animal shelters, the Little Shelter is dedicated to saving all companion animals whose lives are in jeopardy and

provides medical care and rehabilitation, a spay and neuter program and adoption services. Super Storm Sandy left many pets lost or with owners no longer able to house and care for them. The shelter is in need of pet treats, toys and cleaning supplies and bedding. Please stop by during office hours, Monday to Friday from 9am- 5 pm, to help the Little Shelter care for the animals in its charge and continue its mission of finding forever homes for its dogs and cats.



## *E-Newsletter Saves Taxpayer Dollars*

Once again, I have joined with my colleagues in the Legislature in voluntarily suspending the mailing of newsletters to constituents to save more than \$100,000 in taxpayer money over the next year. My newsletters will now be published electronically and can be accessed at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov>. If you would like to receive e-mail updates and future e-newsletters, please send your e-mail address to: [steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov)



## *Join us on Facebook*

Please join us on Facebook to see videos, photos and share the latest news at:

[http://m.facebook.com/steve.stern.7#!/steve.stern.7?soft=jewel%3D0&\\_user=18915385](http://m.facebook.com/steve.stern.7#!/steve.stern.7?soft=jewel%3D0&_user=18915385)

## *Legislator Stern Collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers”*

Our office is collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers” to provide support for our troops and their families. “Cell Phones for Soldiers” recycles used cell phones and uses the proceeds to purchase pre-paid calling cards for our troops serving overseas. Please bring your used cell phones to my office: 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY. For further information, please call (631)854-5100. Thank you for your support.



## *Contact Legislator Stern:*

Our office is located at 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743. You can reach us by phone at (631) 854-5100 or by e-mail at [steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.

## *Legislator Steve Stern in Our Community*



Steve presented a Proclamation to Neil Harris to mark his 100<sup>th</sup> apheresis blood donation. Apheresis separates blood into component parts, such as plasma and platelets for cancer patients, accident victims and others. To donate blood, please visit [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org) or call 1-(800) 933-2566.



Members of the Veterans and Seniors Committee participated in “Purple-Up for Military Kids Day” and welcomed Staff Sergeant Ted Gentile and his family, Beth Delli-Pizzi of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Family Readiness Group and Vicki Fleming of “Operation Military Kids” to recognize our military children and their families during the “Month of the Military Child.”



Steve was joined by Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, Town Board members, veterans and Alliance Group Affiliates (AGA) to discuss free security guard training courses, educational and job counseling, mentoring, and job placement assistance for disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients through the AGA Helping Heroes at Home Program (3H). For more information please contact Gregory Bravo at (631) 991-2620.



Steve presented Proclamations to the Half Hollow Hills Little League 9 and 10 year old Girls’ Softball Team, New York Sect. 6 and Dist. 34 Champions at the Opening Day Little League Parade. Steve is joined by Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland and HHH Little League President Steve Muraco.