

District 17 • SPRING 2014

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# LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

# LOU D'AMARO

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## *A Message From Legislator D'Amaro*

Now in my fifth term in the Suffolk County Legislature, it remains a privilege to serve as your representative and I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the people of the 17th Legislative District for re-electing me this past November. I realize that there are still many challenges facing Suffolk County, and I continue to take my responsibility as your fiscal watchdog and governmental advocate very seriously.

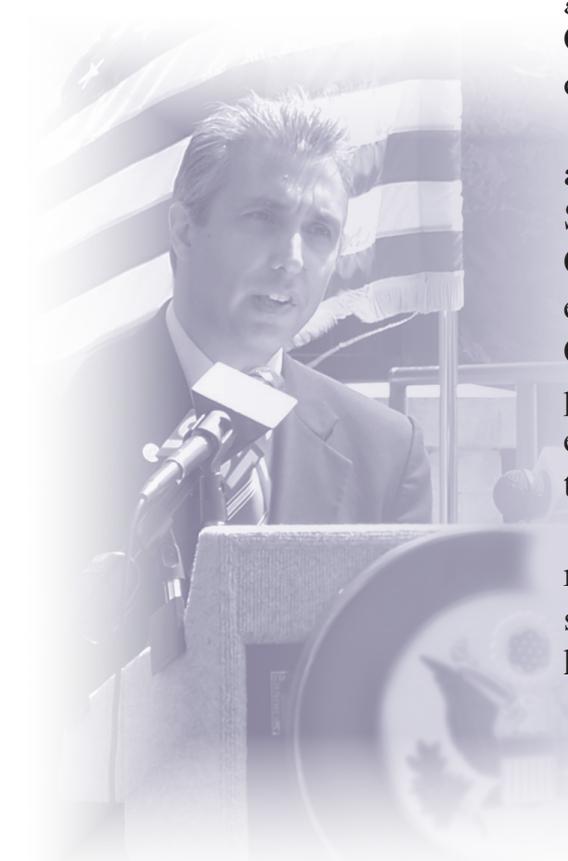
This year, I am serving on several vital legislative committees that help me protect your interests in County government. I returned as chairman of the prestigious Budget & Finance Committee, a position which allows me to continue my focus on protecting taxpayers and controlling the size of government. As Committee Chairman, I am working diligently with County Executive Steve Bellone to find common sense solutions to our County's financial challenges.

In addition to chairing the Budget & Finance Committee, I am also serving on the Education & Information Technology and Human Services Committees. The Education Committee oversees Suffolk County Community College, an outstanding and affordable higher education option for residents of all ages. The Human Services Committee is tasked with ensuring that the County continues providing a social safety net, which is essential during these difficult economic times. I look forward to bringing my governing perspective to these two important committees.

Thank you again for placing your trust in me to be your County representative. Do not hesitate to contact me at (631) 854-4433 should you need any type of assistance. My staff and I are here to help.

Very truly yours,

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



## County Emergency Response Programs

Several County programs are available to protect your family and community by enhancing emergency response, planning and communications with Suffolk County Emergency Management Officials.

**Smart911** is a service that allows residents to create a free Safety Profile for their household. This profile can include any information you personally want 9-1-1 and first responders to have if an emergency situation arises.

In the event that anyone in your household dials 9-1-1 from a phone associated with your Safety Profile, the information provided is immediately displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, enabling the operator to customize and maximize response. In an emergency when seconds count, Smart911 provides details that could impact response and be the difference between life and death. Go to [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com) to sign up and create a Safety Profile for your household. It's private, secure and you control what information is included.

The **Suffolk County Emergency Preparedness Registry** was developed to expand the Special Needs Registry into a County-wide registry for ALL residents. This secured encrypted registry is voluntary and free. It is designed to assist first responders and emergency planners in identifying residents that may need assistance in evacuation and special sheltering during an emergency so that they may develop the necessary plans. It also aids emergency planners in the development of shelter plans for those residents with Special and Functional

Medical Needs, while enhancing communication to the end user and their emergency contacts.

The **Suffolk County Mass Emergency Notification System** (also known as Code Red) is an extremely high speed telephone communication service that delivers customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to Suffolk County homes and businesses at the proven capacity of millions of calls

per day. In addition, Code Red has high speed email and text messaging capability. The system incorporates a mapping tool that will allow Suffolk Emergency Managers to send notifications to specific geographic areas by selecting them on a map.

The **Pulse Point Mobile App** alerts CPR-trained bystanders to someone nearby having a sudden cardiac event so that CPR can begin immediately. The App also directs citizens, with a live map, to the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). You can

download the PulsePoint app in the Apple App Store (for iPhone) or on Google Play (for Android phones) and, after downloading and accepting terms and conditions, select "Suffolk County" to enable CPR notifications. In the event a 911 call is received by the Suffolk Fire Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) Department where someone nearby likely needs CPR, FRES will both dispatch emergency resources as usual and send an alert to CPR trained and registered citizens in the area, providing the location of the nearest AED. This application assists in improving Sudden Cardiac Survival rates by empowering citizens to be able to respond and help.





## New Terms Begins

Pictured from left, Huntington Legislators Steve Stern (16th LD), Lou D'Amaro and Dr. William Spencer (18th LD) are shown being sworn into their new terms in the Suffolk County Legislature at the 2014 Organizational Meeting on January 2. The swearing-in took place at the newly-named William J. Lindsay North County Complex in Hauppauge, NY.

## State of the Counties Breakfast

Nearly 1,000 business leaders and elected officials attended the Long Island Association (LIA)'s Annual State of the Counties Breakfast in January to hear Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone discuss their accomplishments from the previous year and the challenges they face in leading their respective Counties in 2014. Both Executives vowed to continue working together to develop initiatives that are mutually beneficial to residents and businesses. It was a fascinating morning for all attendees.



Legislator D'Amaro joins Long Island Association President Kevin Law and Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory at the LIA's 2014 State of the Counties Breakfast in January.

## Judie Gorenstein: Woman of Distinction

Legislator D'Amaro was pleased to name Melville resident Judie Gorenstein, co-president of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Huntington, as the District 17 Woman of Distinction for 2014. Under Ms. Gorenstein's direction, the LWV has continued to fulfill and enhance its mission to keep citizens informed, aware and interested in the voting process. Her leadership is further exemplified through her work with the County LWV where she serves as Voter Service Director and as the New York State LWV's Director of Youth Programs and Citizen Education.

Ms. Gorenstein received recognition from Legislator D'Amaro March 4th in the Legislative Auditorium at the Riverhead County Center, joined by (from left) Joyce W. Viscomi (Huntington LWV Treasurer), Patricia Fuchs (Huntington LWV Co-Secretary), Mary McLaughlin (Suffolk County LWV Legislative Director) and Nancy Marr (Brookhaven LWV President, Suffolk LWV Vice President). Through her dedication, leadership and commitment to preserving our sacred right to vote, Judie Gorenstein is a shining example of someone who selflessly gives back, making her truly deserving of this honor.



## Play Ball!

Legislator D'Amaro recently joined with other local elected officials to celebrate an annual rite of spring at the North Babylon Youth League's 2014 Baseball and Softball Opening Day. He is shown here marching in the April parade with some very excited young sluggers.



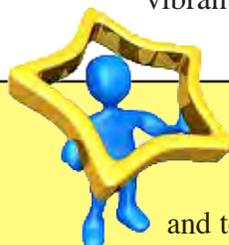
## Civic Group Leaders Sworn In

Members of the Parkdale Civic Association in North Babylon recently invited Legislator D'Amaro to attend their monthly meeting to discuss issues of local concern and learn about legislative initiatives that impact their community. Topics of discussion included: speeding vehicles, water levels at nearby Deer Lake and the County budget. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions and were invited to contact Legislator D'Amaro if he could be of assistance on any matters. At the meeting, Legislator D'Amaro was asked to swear in new Parkdale Civic President Terence McSweeney and Recording Secretary Joanne Marquardt.



## Huntington's Government Reports Breakfast

Got questions? Local officials had answers at the Huntington Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Government Reports Breakfast! In this forum, attendees remain seated as the invited electeds move from table to table for a free-flowing discussion of important issues. The annual event was held at the Huntington Country Club and Legislator D'Amaro was pleased to be invited again to join business and community leaders for the vibrant exchange of ideas.



Know an outstanding woman, senior citizen, firefighter, emergency services technician, volunteer or student? Legislator D'Amaro is always interested in honoring our neighbors who are doing extraordinary things. If you or

anyone you know is deserving of this recognition, please send an email to [Karen.klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Karen.klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov) and tell us about him or her.