



Legislator Steve Stern's State of the 16th District



IN THIS ISSUE

HOMES FOR OUR HEROES

Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer.

Suffolk County is proud to be home to the largest number of veterans in New York State. Therefore, it is always important that we lead the way on being of meaningful assistance for our veterans, especially to those who are most vulnerable.

I am very proud to announce that Suffolk County has taken immediate action on my "Housing Our Homeless Heroes" legislation and has identified eight properties that will be transferred to non-profit agencies working with veterans. Those agencies will rehabilitate the homes to create affordable housing for our service men and women who are homeless or severely at risk of becoming homeless.

No soldier who has ever worn the uniform of our great nation and gone off to protect the ground we stand on should ever have to come to sleep on it. As we all know, a home is much more than four walls and a roof. It is a symbol of dignity and hope that our veterans need and deserve.

In addition, these veterans will also receive support services such as employment training and opportunities; family counseling; primary and mental health care; disability management and health care coordination and substance abuse services.

This isn't just good for our veterans - it's also good for business and our quality of life as blighted properties are given new life, raising property values. In addition, this proactive approach saves taxpayers millions of dollars by placing homeless veterans into permanent residences, rather than more expensive emergency shelters.

Please enjoy my latest newsletter to learn of the latest news in the 16th Legislative District. As always, if I can ever be of assistance, please call my office at 631-854-5100.

Sincerely,



Overcoming Challenges on the Court

Legislator Stern takes a shot at wheelchair basketball to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities in our communities.



13-Year-Old Inspires Autism Awareness Legislation

Half Hollow Hills middle school student Nova Shek leads Suffolk County effort to "Light It Up Blue" for autism awareness.

IMPORTANT! CALL TO ACTION TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM VIOLENT SEXUAL PREDATORS

Dear Neighbors,

As your Suffolk County Legislator, I strongly believe that my top priority is to ensure public safety and protect the most vulnerable residents of our community, our children. That is why I am writing to you today, not just as your representative, but also as a parent of young children and as the author of the most aggressive legislation in the nation to protect our children from sexual predators.

In February, the highest court in the state, the Court of Appeals, overturned local residency restrictions, leaving our children unprotected. In fact, recently, a Level 3 offender, the highest level of predator, moved in **just three doors** away from a local elementary school! Additionally, registration requirements for thousands of Level 1 offenders are set to expire at the end of December. These offenders, who are statistically most likely to re-offend, will drop off the radar if protections are not renewed.

I am asking for your help by contacting the offices of Governor Andrew Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and demand that they call the Assembly back to Albany in a Special Session **immediately** to pass Assembly Bill A2864, and restore the ability of local governments to establish residency restrictions for our communities. The State Senate has already passed this bill, but the Assembly ended this year's session without ensuring that our children are protected. Assembly Bill A2864 is the companion bill that must be approved and signed by the Governor to ensure that our children are protected when they return to school in September. Attached is my letter sent to the Governor and Speaker Heastie.

The New York State Legislature is now on vacation. Many of our children are on vacation as well. **But sexual predators don't take vacation**. Without a Special Session, the Legislature will not re-convene until January, leaving our children vulnerable.

- Please call Governor Cuomo at 1 (518) 455-6539 or email at <http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>
- Please also contact Assembly Speaker Heastie at 1 (518) 455-3791 or email at Speaker@assembly.state.ny.us

Thank you for your help as we work together to protect our children and our community.

Sincerely,



Steve Stern

APPRECIATING OUR VETERANS WITH ACTION



Groundbreaking of All-Green Veterans Housing in Huntington Station

On Earth Day, Legislator Stern celebrated the groundbreaking of the first U.S. Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home, which will be built by veterans, for veterans, on Depot Road in Huntington Station. The home is part of the United Way of Long Island Vets Build program, which helps veterans find employment in the green construction industry. The home will use a renewable energy system that offsets nearly all of its annual energy consumption, resulting in virtually nonexistent energy bills.

A 'Home Run' For Veterans at Ducks Stadium

Legislator Stern, along with County Executive Steve Bellone, announced a new partnership between Suffolk County and the Long Island Ducks. The Long Island Ducks will publicly recognize two Suffolk County veterans at each home game during the 2015 season to give thanks for their service.



Honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families

Legislator Steve Stern served as the keynote speaker during the opening ceremony of the American Gold Star Mothers of New York State 2015 convention. Legislator Stern recognized mothers and their families not only for their sacrifices, but for their service and support of one another.



PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE WITH BAY SHORE FIRST GRADERS



Legislator Steve Stern got “down and dirty” to help a first grade class at Mary G. Clarkson School in Bay Shore build a sustainable rain garden at their school. Planted with proper plants, near a down spout, rain gardens absorb excess water. This helps to mitigate runoff and reduces contaminants that enter our ground water.

MILITARY FAMILIES ENJOY DAY OF FREE MINI GOLF AND GAMES



Legislator Steve Stern hosted a day of free miniature golf, games, pizza and more at Monster Mini Golf in Deer Park to support our children whose parents are in the military during the “Month of the Military Child.” The children enjoyed the fun while their parents were able to spend time with other military families. “I thank Steve Gramolini and John Nicolette, owners of Monster Mini-Golf in Deer Park, who graciously donate the use of their facility for this annual celebration.” Legislator Stern also introduced legislation recognizing the “Month of the Military Child” to honor the sacrifices made not only by the brave men and women serving our great nation, but by their families as well.

Suffolk County “Lights It Up Blue” For Autism Awareness

Legislator Steve Stern marked Autism Awareness Month by lighting up the Suffolk County H. Lee Dennison building with blue lights after his “Light It Up Blue” legislation was signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone.

After receiving a letter from 13-year-old Nova Shek of Dix Hills about her younger brother with Autism, Legislator Stern was inspired to create legislation that would annually recognize and support people and families affected by Autism by illuminating the County building with blue lights for one full week starting April 2nd, World Autism Day.

Legislator Stern previously passed legislation marking the Month of April as Autism Awareness Month in Suffolk County in 2007.

“I’m proud to stand with so many of our families in Suffolk County who have loved ones with autism and I am especially pleased to support the efforts of a special young lady, Nova Shek, who proves that one small voice can make a world of difference for others,” Legislator Steve Stern said.



Above: Legislator Steve Stern and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone applaud 13-year-old Nova Shek during the bill signing of Legislator Stern’s “Light it up Blue” for Autism Awareness legislation.

Left: Legislator Steve Stern, County Executive Steve Bellone and the Shek family are joined by autism awareness advocates as the H. Lee Dennison building is illuminated in blue on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day.

2016 Capital Budget Passes

Saving taxpayer dollars, providing essential services and preserving our quality of life

Saving Taxpayer Dollars:

- Reduced size of Suffolk County Government
- Shifted to Federally Qualified Health Care plan
- Successfully prevented a state mandate to expand the Suffolk County jail. Instead, Suffolk's efforts to enhance diversionary programs, curb recidivism and reduce crime through intelligence-led policing have resulted in significant declines in the County's jail population.
- Budget Review Office concludes County debt will continue to decrease.

Providing Essential Services and Preserving Quality of Life:

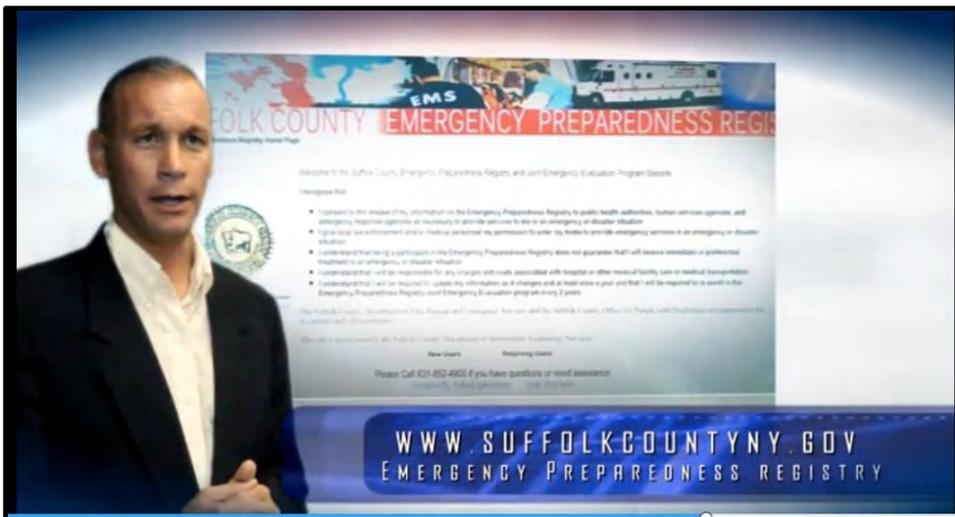
- Included in the budget is \$21 million for the critically important expansion of the Southwest Sewer District in Huntington Station as part of a revitalization plan that will also protect our environment
- Expanded "Shed the Meds" program to senior centers to help eliminate pharmaceuticals from entering our ground water.
- Energy efficient projects over the next three years are projected to save millions in annual energy costs.

VIDEO: Wheelchair Basketball Is a ‘Slam Dunk’ (Click the arrow to play)



Legislator Steve Stern takes a shot at Wheelchair Basketball with the Elwood SEPTA to increase understanding of the challenges people with disabilities face during Disability Awareness Month.

Preparing For Hurricane Season



Legislator Stern created a [Public Service Announcement](#) to urge residents, especially those with limited mobility, to plan ahead for hurricanes, storms and other serious weather events.

Residents, who may need assistance in the case of an evacuation, should enroll in the [Suffolk County Emergency Preparedness Registry](#). The Registry was established to collect information emergency first responders will need to help locate and evacuate people with Special Needs during an emergency, especially when a family, caregiver or others are unable to help.

If you or a family member may have difficulty getting to safety during an emergency evacuation because of a physical or cognitive limitation, language barrier, or lack of transportation, enroll online in the Emergency Preparedness Registry at <https://oemapps.suffolkcountyny.gov/spns/> or call the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services at 631-852-4900.

“Planning on the run is never a good idea. I encourage all of our residents with special needs to enroll in the Emergency Preparedness Registry so that they may be quickly helped to safety in case of an emergency,” Legislator Stern said. “Register today to be prepared for tomorrow.”

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY DAY IN ELWOOD

Legislator Steve Stern joined “Elwood Community Day” for a day of fun in the sun at Elwood-John Glenn High School. The event celebrates Elwood and brings together fellow neighbors through family-friendly activities, games and sports.



Steve Stern On ‘Meet the Leaders’ Veterans Special



Legislator Steve Stern spoke with “Meet the Leaders” host Pat Halpin about his legislation to end veterans’ homelessness in Suffolk County. The “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act” utilizes surplus County property for non-profit organizations so that they can be remodeled for veterans and their families. [Click the arrow above to learn more.](#)

LOCAL HEROES



Legislator Steve Stern, along with County Executive Steve Bellone, presented a stair lift to a Suffolk veteran in need, Barton Burlison. Mr. Burlison, who had been unable to sleep in his own bed due to his inability to use the stairs, can now easily move throughout his home, thanks to the generous donation from Ageless Home Living.



Second Precinct "Stop DWI - Top Cop" Joshua Parsons was presented with a Proclamation for leading the Precinct in arrests of those driving while intoxicated (DWI) at a Pre-Prom meeting at Half Hollow Hills High School West.



In the spirit of Independence Day, Legislator Stern honored the Dominican Village Needlework Group during the senior community's "Celebrating Our Independence by Honoring Veterans" celebration held June 30. Legislator Stern recognized the Needlework Group members for their work all winter to make blankets, scarves and hats for our veterans in need to provide comfort and support to those who served our country.

SPREADING ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS, ONE LIFE AT A TIME



A Second Chance at Life

Christian Siems, a 21-year-old Suffolk County resident, pictured above with his family, has a new chance at life after waiting 6 months for a heart transplant.

Siems suffers from cardiomyopathy, a hereditary heart disease. Due to his condition, Christian's only chance for survival was the use of a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) – an artificial heart and the hope of an organ donation. Until then, his heart could only keep beating with the help of a battery.

Though hopeful, the chances of receiving a donor heart are slim, especially in New York, which ranks dead-last in number of registered organ donors in the United States.

Only 24 percent of New Yorkers are organ donors; the nationwide average is approximately 40 percent, according to Live on New York, Inc. In addition, only 27 percent of eligible Suffolk County residents are organ donors, according to New York Alliance for Donation, Inc.

To encourage residents to register as organ donors, Legislator Steve Stern introduced legislation declaring April as "Donate Life –

Organ Donation Awareness Month," which unanimously passed in the Legislature.

Just 12 hours after a press conference was held to announce the legislation, Siems received the call he had been waiting for – a heart was available.

That evening, Siems underwent a life-saving operation thanks to a selfless donor and donor family.

One organ donor can save up to eight lives. More than 120,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants. Of these, more than 10,000 live right here, in the greater New York metropolitan area.

"Organ donation truly is the 'Gift of Life,' Legislator Stern said. "Just hours after helping to raise awareness of the critical need for people to become organ donors, Christian received the greatest gift of all - the gift of life. I strongly encourage all residents who are eligible to register as organ donors and help make miracles happen."

To register as an organ donor, please visit: <http://www.donatelifeny.org/take-action/register-to-become-a-donor/>.



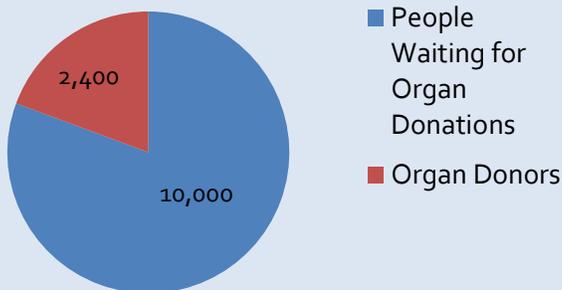
Legislator Stern held a press conference with County officials and organ donation advocates to announce that his legislation declaring April "Donate Life-Organ Donation Awareness Month" passed unanimously at the March 24th General Session of the Legislature.



In New York State, someone dies every 15 hours waiting for an organ transplant.

-Donate Life NY

Desperate Need for Organ Donations in NYS



Celebrating Our Older Americans



Throughout the month of May, Legislator Stern visited several of our local senior centers and clubs to speak with constituents about the issues concerning our older residents during Older Americans Month.

Older Americans Month, observed throughout the month of May, was established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy to acknowledge the contributions of older generations to our country.

Legislator Stern discussed legislative initiatives to improve safety and quality of life for those in Suffolk County, including his "Shed the Meds" program to help eliminate pharmaceuticals from entering our water supplies, and the Silver Alert, which he created, which notifies the public when an adult with Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive disorder goes missing. The Shed the Meds program allows for individuals to dispose of their unused medications in an environmentally-safe way to prevent pharmaceuticals from entering our drinking water supplies and helps keep potentially harmful substances out of the hands of our children.

"Our seniors built our Suffolk County communities to be the welcoming places we are proud to call home today. It is an honor to support those generations who have done so much for all of us," Legislator Stern said.

Local Boy with Brain Tumor Brings Our Community Together

Legislator Steve Stern joined the Half Hollow Hills High School East and West Key Clubs to collect supplies for the Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Stony Brook University Medical Center after the 3-year-old son of a teacher at High School East was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Students showed their support by collecting needed items for the Family Room, which provides the comforts of home for families of children with serious illnesses. Legislator Stern's office collected books, toys, food items and needed cleaning supplies for patients and their families.



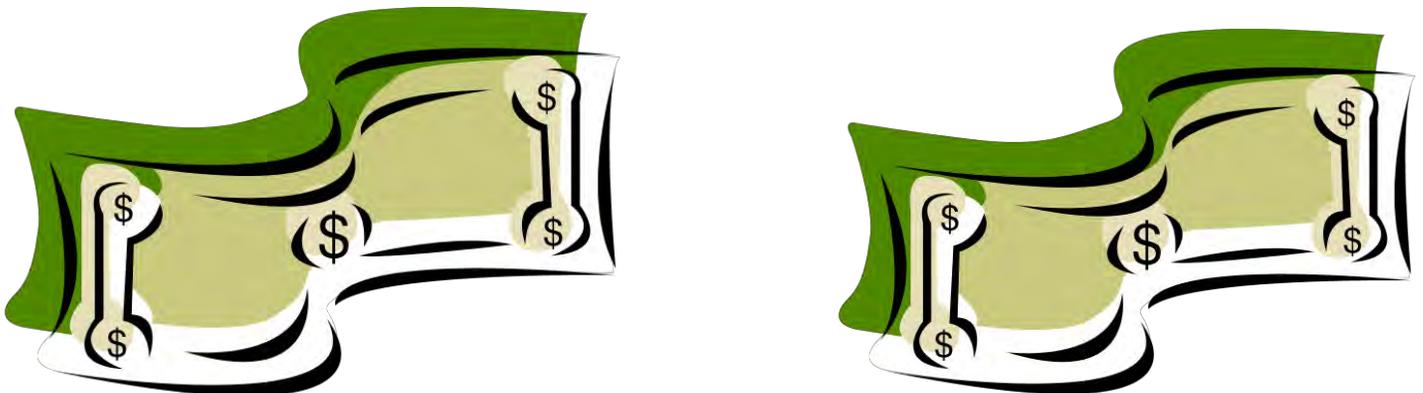
Notary Public Services Available

All members of my staff are Licensed Notary Publics and are available to notarize documents for the community at **no charge**. Documents that may need notarization include Powers of Attorney, medical forms, leases and deeds and other official documents. Notaries verify the identity of the person signing the document and witness the signature to protect against fraud. If you need to have a document notarized, please feel free to stop by my office at 1842 East Jericho Turnpike, Huntington during business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Please be sure to bring valid identification, such as a driver's license, a state issued ID card, passport or military identification card.



Unclaimed Funds

Did you know that there are more than \$12 billion dollars in unclaimed funds in bank accounts, stocks and bonds utility deposits and insurance funds? Many people are unaware of money that may be in their name in these accounts. The Office of the New York State Comptroller has an online database that residents can check for unclaimed funds. I encourage anyone who thinks they may have unclaimed funds to visit www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm or call toll-free at 1-800-221-9311.





Steven Bellone, County Executive

ATTENTION VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Have you been treated unfairly or been discriminated against because of your

MILITARY STATUS ?

VETERAN STATUS?

LAWFUL SOURCE OF INCOME?

Call TODAY to speak with an Investigator

631-853-5480

Other protected areas include: Race • Color • Creed • Age • National Origin • Alienage or Citizenship Status • Gender • Sexual Orientation • Disability • Marital Status • Familial Status • Status as a Victim of Domestic Violence

DISCRIMINATION is ILLEGAL!

The Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
is here to help you!

www.SuffolkCountyNY.gov/Departments/HumanRightsCommission

There is no fee charged for our services! Call for confidential advice and assistance. Our professional staff will assess your allegations and your options will be explained. Immigration status is not an impediment to filing. Language assistance services are available free of charge.

Main Office:
H. LEE DENNISON BLDG.
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

TUESDAYS ARE VETERANS' DAYS AT LONG ISLAND CARES



MILITARY APPRECIATION TUESDAYS

**EVERY TUESDAY IN OUR HUNTINGTON STATION,
LINDENHURST AND FREEPORT LOCATIONS FROM
9am – 5pm**

**ON THEIR FIRST VISIT VETERANS WILL RECEIVE A 5
DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD**

**ON SUBSEQUENT VISITS VETERANS WILL RECEIVE A
3 DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE
CALL MICHAEL HAYNES, MANAGER OF
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & VETERAN SERVICES
(631) 582-3663 ext. 124**

**L.I CARES APPRECIATES AND THANKS YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE!!!**



Legislator Steve Stern

1842 East Jericho Tpke.
Huntington, NY 11743

631-854-5100

<http://suffolkcountyny.gov/do16/home.aspx>

EASY ACCESS TO YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT



The following list of telephone numbers is provided for your convenience in contacting Suffolk County government offices for information and assistance.

Legislator

Steve Stern

1842 E. Jericho Tpk., Suite P
Huntington, NY 11743
Phone: (631) 854-5100 Fax: (631) 854-5103
E-mail: steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Alcohol and Substance Abuse	853-8500
Board of Elections and Voter Registration	852-4500
Child Abuse Hotline	800-342-3720
(to report suspected abuse, 24 hours a day)	
Child Protective Services	854-9030
Child Support Enforcement Bureau	853-2000
Civil Service	853-5500
Commissioner of Jurors	852-2300
Community Development	853-5705
Consumer Affairs	853-4600
Cooperative Extension	727-7850
County Clerk	852-2000
County Executive	853-4000
District Attorney	853-4161
District Court - Second	854-1121
District Court - Third	854-4545
District Court - Fifth	854-9676
Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention/Referral Hotline	666-8833
Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline	360-3606
Economic Development	853-4800
Foster Care	853-5437
Health Services	853-3036
Human Rights Commission	853-5480
Industrial Development Agency	853-4802

Labor - Employment and Training	853-6600
Legal Aid Society	854-0401
Minority Affairs	853-4738
Mosquito Spraying Hotline	852-4939
Office for the Aging	853-8200
Office for People with Disabilities	853-8333
Parks and Recreation	854-4949
Planning	853-5189
Police Department - First Precinct	854-8100
Police Department - Second Precinct	854-8200
Police Department - Third Precinct	854-8300
Police Headquarters	852-6000
Police Non-Emergency	852-COPS
Probation	852-5000
Public Works	852-4010
Real Estate	853-5900
Real Property Tax	852-1551
Sheriff's Office	852-2200
Social Services	854-9935
Soil and Water Conservation	727-2315
Stop DWI	853-5715
Suffolk County Community College - Admissions Information	451-4034
Transportation	852-4880
Treasurer	852-1500
Veterans Services	853-8387
Victims Information Bureau	360-3606
Women Services	853-8284
Youth Bureau	853-8270

**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN
(631) 854-5100**

This is our district . . .

The 16th Suffolk County Legislative District (L.D.) includes Commack, Dix Hills, East Northport, Elwood, Melville and South Huntington in the Town of Huntington, Deer Park in the Town of Babylon and Brentwood and North Bay Shore in the Town of Islip. The district is bounded roughly by Clay Pitts Road to the North, Sunrise Highway to the South, New York Avenue to the West and Washington Avenue and Awixa Creek to the East. It consists of (62) election districts (E.D.s) with 49,307 registered voters. The 16th L.D. has 6 E.D.s in the Town of Babylon, 39 E.D.s in the Town of Huntington and 17 E.D.s in the Town of Islip.

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CONSTITUENT CONCERN FORM

Your Name

Your Address

City

Zip Code

Daytime Phone

Evening Phone

E-Mail

Fax

Please describe your concern:

Detach and mail this form to:

**Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern
1842 E. Jericho Tpk., Suite P
Huntington, NY 11743**

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Legislator Steve Stern

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631-854-5100

<http://suffolkcountyny.gov/do16/home.aspx>