

District 17 / SPRING 2016

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LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

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A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

This past January, I was sworn in for my sixth and final term in the Suffolk County Legislature. It remains an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the 17th Legislative District. Please know that I am still fully committed to addressing your most pressing concerns while continuing to provide essential County services for those in need.

In accordance with my pledge to keep a watchful eye on government spending, I am pleased to have once again been renamed chairman of the critically important Budget and Finance Committee, where I continue to work cooperatively with County Executive Steve Bellone to find common sense solutions to our County's financial challenges. My leadership role on this committee allows me to focus on protecting taxpayers by controlling both spending and the overall size of County government.

In addition to chairing the Budget and Finance Committee, I was also appointed to serve on the Legislature's Veterans Committee, which has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the County's Veterans Service Agency and our heroic service members.

Thank you, once again, for continuing to put your trust in me as your elected representative in County government. 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.

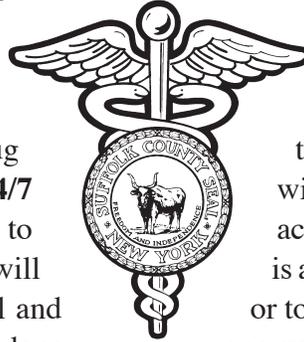
Very truly yours,

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



Substance Abuse Hotline

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services is pleased to announce a new initiative to help address the continuing opioid epidemic in our County. Effective April 1, 2016, the Department, in partnership with the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (“LICADD”), is operating a **24/7 Substance Abuse Hotline – (631) 979-1700** - to link callers to treatment options. All callers will be screened by a certified medical professional and referred to a local provider. Follow-up will be done



to make sure that individuals received the appropriate level of care. Our local providers, who work collaboratively with the Suffolk County Communities of Solution provider network, have been instrumental in the development of this initiative. They are committed to partnering with LICADD to ensure that callers get timely access to quality substance abuse care. This hotline is available to those in crisis, contemplating sobriety or to guide family and friends who may have a loved one suffering from addiction.

Smoking Cessation Clinics

Residents who smoke and want to break their tobacco addiction are urged to sign up for Suffolk County’s “Learn to Be ... Tobacco Free” program, held in locations throughout Suffolk County this Spring and throughout the year.

The six-session programs are free to Suffolk County residents, though there is a nominal fee for medication for medically eligible participants. Call (631) 853-4017 for more information and to register.

Residents who are trying to stop smoking will find that these free and effective cessation clinics will provide them with the important tools they need to lead the healthy smoke-free lifestyle they desire.



Living Healthy With Diabetes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes affects nearly 26 million people – 8.3 percent of the U.S. population. More than 18 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes and it is estimated that seven million people have diabetes without any knowledge that they are afflicted with the disease. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic lower limb amputations and new cases of blindness among adults. It is a major cause of heart disease and stroke and the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. Overall, the risk of death among people with diabetes is about twice that of similarly aged individuals without the disease. It is estimated that 35 percent of adults aged 20 and older have risk factors that make them pre-diabetic.

I invite residents who

have Type 2 Diabetes and their caregivers to attend a free program that will help them manage their diabetes.

The six-class program, entitled “The Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Classes,” is conducted in collaboration with Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk.

The classes in the program cover topics including: techniques for dealing with the symptoms of diabetes, such as fatigue, pain, hypoglycemia, stress and emotional issues such as depression, anger, fear and frustration; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength and endurance; healthy eating; label reading; appropriate



use of medication, and effective communication with healthcare providers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension also conducts 90 minute specialty diabetes classes including: Medication and Monitoring Your Blood Sugar, Meal Planning, Carbohydrate Counting for Beginners and Preventing Complications, Coping & Problem Solving. Contact Jane Juran at Cornell Cooperative Extension for more information on upcoming classes in your area at (631) 727-7850 ext. 340.

Beware of Scams



According to the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD), every day scores of people across the United States fall victim to predators that seek to take advantage of those who are trusting and vulnerable. The key to avoid being scammed is awareness and caution. Here are some of the most common scams that are reported to the Police Department:

“THIS IS PSE&G. WE WILL SHUT OFF YOUR SERVICE” SCAM – PSEG Long Island is warning its customers to be on alert for phone and email payment scams, and thieves posing as utility workers, which could put their financial and personal security at risk. PSEG Long Island employees have photo identification badges that must be displayed at all times. If you have any questions about an employee’s identity, call PSEG Long Island’s customer service center at 1-800-490-0025. A customer service representative can verify that an employee has been dispatched to your property. For the latest information about how to identify PSEG Long Island employees and information about this scam, please visit www.psegliny.com/scam

“THIS IS THE IRS. YOU OWE & WE ARE COMING FOR YOU” SCAM – Some residents of Suffolk County have reported being contacted by a person who claims to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service. DO NOT provide these individuals with ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION, BANKING INFORMATION, CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS NUMBERS OR SEND THEM MONEY VIA ELECTRONIC WIRE. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, the IRS recommends the following:

If you know, or believe, that you owe taxes, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

If you know that you do not owe taxes and believe that the call was a scam attempt, please call the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

UNITED NATIONS FUND BENEFICIARY LETTER – The Computer Crimes Unit has seen incidents where residents of Suffolk County have been contacted via e-mail and advised that they were beneficiaries of a fund being monitored by the United Nations. In order to recoup these funds, they were advised to respond to the e-mail with personal identifying information. By responding to this e-mail and providing this information, you are giving them the tools or “items of information” that will likely make you a victim of identity theft.



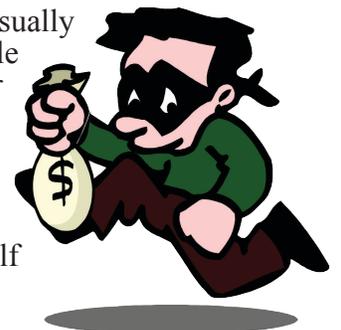
HOUSING RENTAL SCAMS – The Computer Crimes Unit has also received a number of inquiries from homeowners and real estate professionals who stated that their listing for a rental has appeared on Craig’s List or other real estate based websites, but the contact information, e-mail address, and phone numbers are not their own. The scammer’s listing, or follow-up e-mail correspondence, usually contain “indicators” that should raise a red flag to potential renters such as misspellings, grammatical errors, odd email addresses, etc. Be especially leery of transactions that ask you to use money orders.

CRAIG’S LIST SCAMS – Realizing the potential for victimization on its site, Craig’s List has taken the proactive step to include a section on their website that deals with scams. It provides the user with guidelines on “how not to become a victim.” It is very important that you read this when buying or selling anything on Craig’s List.

NOTE: If you should choose to meet someone from an auction/resale site in person, do so in a public place. The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office has created two Safe Transaction Zones designed to protect citizens from various crimes associated with online transactions. They are located at the Sheriff’s Office, 100 Center Drive, Riverhead and the Yaphank Facility, 220 Glover Drive, Yaphank. Both are marked with red and white signs are in full view of on-duty Deputy Sheriffs. Citizens are encouraged to use the marked areas as a place to meet and conduct transactions that require in-person exchanges of online purchases.

“YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED” SCAMS – Have you received an e-mail or a “pop-up” stating that you have been selected to receive a high value item for “free”? By clicking on the link contained within the web or e-mail content, you are directed to an “online survey” or to a page where you are asked for personal information. When completing the fields, you are providing all the information necessary for the criminal to victimize you. REMEMBER, if it sounds too good to be true, it often is.

DIVERSION SCAM TO COMMIT BURGLARY/THEFT – The “diversion burglary” usually involves an attempt to lure a resident from his/her house or apartment by using a ruse. While your attention is diverted, a second person slips into the residence through an unlocked door or window, grabs valuables and leaves before you return to the residence. During the spring and summer months, beware of strangers that engage you outside of your residence (for example, while performing yard work) as all they need to do is distract you while their counterpart sneaks in the door that you likely left unlocked. If something does not feel right, call 911.



For more information about these scams as well as additional tips on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim, visit:

<http://apps.suffolkcountyny.gov/police/scamalert.html>

IN THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations EMS Worker of the Year, Arthur Brice!



In 2001, the Suffolk County Legislature established a Volunteer Recognition Program for Firefighter and EMS personnel, whereby each Legislator has the opportunity to formally nominate one person in his/her district for their outstanding service to the community as a Firefighter or EMS worker. It was my privilege to honor Arthur Brice of Melville as District 17's Fire Department/EMS Worker of the Year. Mr. Brice is a First Responder with the Melville Fire Department who became a fire rescue member when he retired from his full-time job five years ago. He answers more than a thousand calls a year and is considered the department's "first defense" in any situation, whether it is routine or emergency. An inspiration to his fellow volunteers and the entire community, he is pictured here on the right being congratulated by Melville Fire Department Chief Michael McKeefrey.



Youth Board Coordinating Council Member Appointed



In a resolution that was unanimously approved by the Suffolk County Legislature, Dix Hills resident Susan F. Friedman has been appointed to serve a three-year term as my local representative on the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council. She replaces Huntington Station resident Raymond R. Spatafora whose term ended in late 2015.

The 36-member Youth Board Coordinating Council advises the County Executive on matters pertaining to children and youth and ensures effective countywide planning, development and management of resources necessary to sustain the youth service system. The majority of Board members are citizens representing each of the 18 legislative districts with unique expertise in health, education, recreation and/or youth activities. An attorney and

advocate, Ms. Friedman has shown a long-standing commitment and dedication to area families and youth. She is sure to be another outstanding representative of the 17th Legislative District.

Melville Resident Named to Women's Advisory Commission

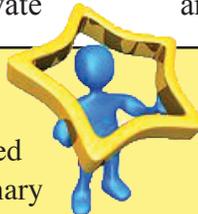
I was pleased to recently swear in Melville resident Cheryl Haiken to serve a three-year term as the 17th Legislative District's representative on the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission.

Ms. Haiken is a behavioral therapist and a special educator/evaluator. She is advisory board chair of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and has held leadership positions in both the South Huntington Jewish Center and the Half Hollow Hills Central School District PTA. A graduate of both Boston University and Hofstra University, she earned dual Masters degrees in education and is currently pursuing a doctorate in behavioral science at SUNY Stony Brook.

The Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission was established through legislation enacted by the Suffolk County Legislature in 2000 to insure equal opportunity for women and to promote the status of women in both the private and public sectors.



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 and tell us about him or her.