



Dear Reader,

Thank you for reading my monthly newsletter for updates on what I have been doing in the month of February. I am proud to report that, in February, we secured \$2.2 million in funding from New York State which will help fund a \$4.5 million dollar water quality project in East Patchogue. I will be hosting and participating in a number of events in the coming weeks and months that I think you will find interesting.

I hope to see you at the Legislature! Until next month,

~Rob Calarco

Suffolk Legislature Votes to Authorize \$2.2 Million Project to Restore Mud Creek Watershed

New York State Grant Funds Will Be Used To Rehabilitate Ecosystem Damaged by Former Duck Farm

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. – By a vote of 17 to 0, the Suffolk County Legislature has voted to authorize a project to restore the Mud Creek Watershed in East Patchogue and to accept \$2.2 million in New York State grants to fund construction. The funding was awarded to Suffolk County by the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), a program by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The funding will enable restoration of wetlands and habitats on the 45-acre parcel of land.

Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco, who represents East Patchogue, praised the project. “For decades, the Mud Creek watershed has been polluted by misuse. Restoring the creek to its natural state is critical for the preservation of the local waterways,” said Calarco. “I want to thank New York State for their help in funding this project, leveraging the resources that both Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven have already committed to this goal.”

The Mud Creek Watershed was significantly damaged by the operation of Gallo Duck Farm, which was founded in 1922. The farm operated for decades in a sensitive ecological area that became severely polluted from waste caused by the 350,000 ducks the farm raised annually. The growing costs related to pollution caused the owners to abandon the duck farm in the early 1980’s and the land was acquired by Suffolk County in 1991. Remnants of the farm continue to plague the land, including unused and dilapidated buildings, debris, discarded equipment, and other structures. In addition, much of the natural vegetation and waterways were altered or destroyed to create feeding pens, swim ponds, and waste disposal sites.

In 2014, a feasibility study was completed and approved by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. It outlined a plan to restore the site by removing all dilapidated structures, creating a new coastal plain stream, restoring forest habitats, removing invasive species, constructing stormwater drainage improvements, and building recreational and educational amenities for park visitors. This resolution authorizes the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to begin construction on the project in accordance with the department’s priority list. In 2016, the Suffolk County Legislature voted to approve \$1,506,149 in the New Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program funds to make stormwater improvements at Mud Creek. The Town of Brookhaven contributed \$269,500 toward the improvements.



(Photo #1) from Left to Right: Alex Gharbaran, John Kearney, Michaela Nolan, Sarah Hernandez, S.C. Legislator Rob Calarco Deputy Presiding Officer

(Photo #2) from Left to Right: Rafael Echevarria III, Mary Savi, Jordan Yates, Emily Peralta, S.C. Legislator Rob Calarco Deputy Presiding Officer

MEDFORD, N.Y. – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco presented proclamations to students at Patchogue-Medford High School on Thursday, February 16th. John Kearney (Grade 9), Alex Gharbaran (Grade 10), Sarah Hernandez (Grade 11), and Michaela Nolan (Grade 12) were honored for their selection as Students of Month for January. Mary Savi (Grade 9), Rafael Echevarria III (Grade 10), Jordan Yates (Grade 11), and Emily Peralta (Grade 12) were honored for their selection as Students of Month for February.



Photo from left to right: S.C. Legislator Rob Calarco Deputy Presiding Officer, Kimberly Burkart, Nicole Ramirez, Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri

PATCHOGUE, N.Y. – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco and Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri attended the opening of Smallcakes Cupcakery & Creamery on Main Street in Patchogue. The store opened on Saturday, February 11th.



Picture from Left to Right: SC Legislator Kate Browning, SC Legislator Rob Calarco Deputy Presiding Officer, Josh Slaughter Office of Legislator Browning, Sharika Adams Boys & Girls Club, Victoria Molloy Office of Brookhaven Councilman Michael Loguercio

BELLPORT, N.Y. – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco and Legislator Kate Browning attended the Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area's 'Tech Girls Rock Day' on Friday, February 24th. The day celebrates and encourages young women and girls to pursue interest in information technology. Over 110 girls, ages 10 to 18, participated in events throughout the day including computer coding, creating engineering models, and playing math games.

Upcoming Events

PLEASE JOIN
Rob Calarco Suffolk County Legislator
Suffolk County Police Department

For A
SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS SEMINAR

In an effort to educate senior citizens on the many scam threats that they face, Legislator Rob Calarco and the Suffolk County Police Department have teamed up to discuss the tactics used by scammers, how to avoid these scams, and how to report them.

Wednesday, March 22nd
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Patchogue-Medford Library
54-60 E Main St
Patchogue, NY 11772

To RSVP or for more information call:
631-854-1400

PRESENTS
"THE UGLY TRUTH"
HEROIN & PRESCRIPTION DRUG EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th, 2017 7 p.m.
LONGWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL, AT VAPORANK MIDDLE ISLAND RD, MIDDLE ISLAND, NY

Presentations will be given by the Suffolk County Police Department Community Response Element, Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office, Suffolk County Police Academy's E.S.I.C.U. and the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

Expert representatives from various local substance abuse treatment agencies will be available

OPTIONAL NARCAN TRAINING INCLUDES FREE TAKE HOME KIT

OPERATIONS MIDDLE ISLAND COUNTY

Bring your expired or unwanted prescription medications for safe disposal by the S.C.P.D.
Please inquire with your pharmacist for packaging instructions to follow regarding the disposal of unused medications.

ALL ARE WELCOME. APPROPRIATE FOR AGES 15 AND OLDER

Break Out the Gardening Gloves!
Extreme Yard Spring Clean Up
with the
South Country Community Leadership Network

The South Country Community Leadership Network (SCCLN) will be organizing the 3rd Annual FREE Spring Front Yard Clean Up for a select number of homes deserving of a little TLC in the South Country Community. Winners will work alongside our crew to help beautify their property, which includes assistance with the removal of leaves and debris, lawn cutting, hedge trimming and plantings. To be considered for the clean up, please complete the form below and send to the following address by April 1, 2017:

SCCLN Mission Statement
"Through a community based intervention approach, help the community and its residents reach their highest potential by assisting families in crisis, implementing prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk individuals and recidivists, developing its youth, and addressing underlying issues to promote a stronger and safer community."

South Country Central School District
Office of the Superintendent - c/o S.C.C.L.N.
149 Dunton Avenue
East Patchogue, NY 11772

Together,
We Can Make a
Better First Impression
of Our Community

Name of Family: _____
Address of Family/Residence: _____
Name of Person Submitting This Form: _____

~ Blue Point ~ Corum ~ East Patchogue ~ Gordon Heights ~
~ Medford ~ North Patchogue ~ Middle Island ~ Patchogue ~ Patchogue Village ~

Charting the Course
"Where Business Meets Opportunity"

Presented by Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco

When: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:00am to 1:00pm
Where: Patchogue Theatre 71 E Main St Patchogue, NY 11772
(Registration and Networking begins at 8:30am)

The partnership between Government and Business has created a unique story in Patchogue Village unlike any other in Suffolk County. Come join us for a free forum featuring elected officials, key government agencies, and neighboring businesses as we discuss the lessons learned building Patchogue and how we can help you achieve success for your business.

Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri
Keynote Speaker

BREAKOUT PANELS

#1 - Starting a Business #3 - Leveraging Public Dollars
#2 - Greening Your Business #4 - Developing Your Workforce

Event Sponsors:

To RSVP, contact Christina DeLisi at (631) 853-6377 or email ccdenr.legislature@suffolkcountyny.gov

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE VISIT
MY WEBSITE AT:**

<http://suffolkcountyny.gov/do7/home.aspx>