



News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

Second Legislative District

March 2016 Newsletter

Legislative Update

- Co-sponsor IR 1050 Adopting a Local Law to amend County restrictions on outdoor restraint of pets.

SUFFOLK TAKES HISTORIC NEXT STEP IN BATTLE TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY



County and Local Officials Join Clean Water Advocates to Announce Financial Incentive Program to Replace Septic/Cesspool Systems

On March 29, 2017 Suffolk County Legislators Bridget Fleming, Kara Hahn, and Sarah Anker joined Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, the Community Development Corp of Long Island, Bridgehampton National Bank, environmental organizations, labor organizations and local distributors of the advanced onsite septic systems to unveil the first-ever financial incentive program in Suffolk County that would help homeowners replace outdated septic systems or cesspools at an affordable rate with new wastewater technologies that are designed to significantly reduce nitrogen pollution.

This incentive program builds on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's commitment to clean water and wastewater infrastructure on Long Island. Governor Cuomo has made water quality a top priority in New York State with the creation of the Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University and the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan initiative.

"Today we are taking a huge leap forward in our effort to protect water quality in our County," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. "For more than four decades, most residents of this county had been left with no choice other than to inject untreated wastewater from their homes directly into the ground. The good news is that we have made more progress to reverse this unacceptable practice in the past four years than Suffolk County had seen in a half century. This new grant and loan program is exactly what is needed to take our hard work to reverse decades of nitrogen pollution to the next level."

Under the Reclaim Our Water Septic Improvement Program, homeowners who decide to replace their cesspool or septic system with the new technologies will be eligible for a grant from the County's Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund (ASRF) of up to \$11,000 (inclusive of installing a pressurized shallow drain field) to offset the cost of one of the new systems.

In addition to the grant, homeowners can qualify to finance the remaining cost of the systems over 15 years at a low 3% fixed interest rate. The loan program will be administered by CDCLI Funding Corp, with financial support from Bridgehampton National Bank in the amount \$1 million and financial commitments from several philanthropic foundations.

"One of the great strengths of CDCLI is being able to offer unique, flexible products that meet a need in our community," stated Gwen O'Shea, President and CEO, CDCLI. "Through the CDCLI Funding Corporation, we are thrilled to provide capital necessary to make this critical pilot program affordable and workable for all Suffolk residents. We are so grateful to Bridgehampton National Bank for their investment in this collaborative and commend the County Executive and his team for their leadership on brining this vital project to fruition. We look forward to our partnership."

"BNB is proud to partner with Suffolk County and the CDCLI Funding Corporation on this innovative program to improve water quality and help homeowners afford new state-of-the art septic systems for their homes. As a community bank headquartered on Long Island, Bridgehampton National Bank has a rich tradition of involvement in our local villages and towns. We believe in supporting the organizations that are improving the quality of life for those who live and work here. We are honored to support this initiative, under the leadership of the County Executive and long-term community partner, the non-profit lending affiliate of Community Development Corporation of Long Island," said Kevin M. O'Connor, President and CEO of Bridgehampton National Bank (BNB).

"The growing threat to our aquifer and waterways is at dangerous levels and it will only get worse unless we take action now," stated Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine. "I am happy to see these funds, which have been accumulating for some time, are now being used to protect the environment and benefit our residents. This effort to prevent nitrogen from entering our ground water is a step in the right direction for Long Island."

"Protecting and improving our water quality is of utmost importance in Suffolk, and this grant program is one example of how the county is working toward that goal. If we are to continue to make strides in protecting the precious resource that is our water, we have to get more of these new nitrogen removal systems into Suffolk households. This grant program accomplishes that by helping property owners defray the costs of replacing outdated sanitary systems and cesspools," said Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory.

"We are at a transformative point in the fight against nitrogen pollution in Suffolk County," said Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn, Chairwoman of the County Legislature's Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee. "Finding a way to upgrade antiquated residential septic systems has been an incredibly complex problem with seemingly impossible solutions. I am thrilled and amazed that under Suffolk County Executive Bellone's leadership we have gotten this far. This grant and loan program will assist residents looking to install more effective systems in priority areas for water quality and will clearly be the spark and the epicenter for a growing industry to address our most pressing water issue – nitrogen. "

"We are an island--Our bays, creeks, harbors and rivers, along with the sole source aquifer beneath our feet, make up the very engine that drives our economy," stated Legislator Bridget Fleming. "But for decades we have made the mistake of ignoring the detrimental impact that septic discharge had on our waters. This important program is a critical step to addressing these issues. I would like to thank the County Executive Steve Bellone and his team for partnering with local municipal governments, and leading the charge in implementing this program to reduce the nitrogen pollution that threatens our way of life."

“The new Septic Incentive Program will make nitrogen-reducing technologies more accessible for Suffolk County homeowners and encourage residents to take action to protect our water from pollution,” said Legislator Sarah Anker. “On Long Island, especially in Suffolk County, water is an economic driver that attracts tourism and serves as a source of income for many fishermen and farmers. It is important that we do everything in our power to limit toxins, especially high concentrations of nitrogen, which negatively affect our health and environment by seeping into our aquifer and local water bodies.”

Total accessible funds available for the first year of the program are \$2 million. Each subsequent year through 2021 will be funded with \$2 million from the Suffolk County Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund.

Funding for the grant-based program was made possible as a result of an approval by Suffolk County voters of a 2014 referendum that authorized use of funding for nitrogen reducing septic systems.

The program is scheduled to launch on July 1, 2017 through an application process.

Since December 2014, Suffolk County’s Septic Demonstration Pilot Program has tested new wastewater treatment technologies to reduce nitrogen pollution, and through the program, has awarded 43 homeowners with a free system including free installation, maintenance and monitoring for five years.

More than 360,000 homes in Suffolk County rely on outdated cesspools and septic systems that do not properly treat wastewater to remove nitrogen, more than the entire state of New Jersey. Studies show that declining water quality that has closed beaches, caused brown tides and fish kills is caused by excess nitrogen, and that cesspools and septic systems are the largest source of nitrogen pollution.

“As I have said many times, all of our efforts to replace polluting systems with new technology that will protect water quality could be of limited value if we don’t find a way to make these new technologies affordable for homeowners,” added Bellone.

Statements of Support:

"The Grant and Loan program once again proves Suffolk County Executive Bellone’s commitment to the environmental standards in the county," said Marc Herbst, Executive Director, Long Island Contractors’ Association. "This program will not only have a far reaching impact on the county’s environment and residents’ health but will also provide opportunities for those highly skilled workers that will be responsible for constructing these state-of-the-art systems."

“Long Island’s reliance on cesspools and old-fashioned septic systems is an outdated practice that allows nitrogen from human waste to flow into our groundwater and surface waters with adverse impacts. Harmful algal blooms, dead fish, loss of shellfish have all been attributed to nitrogen pollution from sewage,” said Kevin McDonald, conservation finance and policy director for The Nature Conservancy on Long Island. “We applaud Suffolk County for initiating an incentive-based program to help facilitate installation of less polluting technologies that will help recover groundwater and surface water quality, this will help recover our bays and harbors that rim the County.”

“The program is part of Suffolk County’s Reclaim Our Water initiative, which includes the securing of nearly \$400 million in funding for the largest expansion of sewers in Suffolk County since the 1970s, the release of the 2015 Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan that provides critical recommendations on how to manage and protect the region’s water supply, involvement in the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge to address regional water quality,” stated Richard Amper, Executive Director of the LI Pine Barrens Society.

"With this initiative, Suffolk County is making it possible for homeowners to do their part toward the broader goal of improving water quality in our harbors and bays," stated John Cameron, Chair-Long Island Regional

Planning Council. “Its focus is prioritized on those areas where the impact of nitrogen reductions will be most important. It incentivizes homeowners with grants because we all benefit when they reduce their impact on the environment. The program also rightfully requires grant recipients to make their own financial commitment toward the cost of these innovative systems. The County should be commended for taking this significant step forward.”

FLEMING RETURNS TO ALBANY SEEKING STATE ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Picture from left to right Ryan Stanton, Elizabeth Sutton, Joshua Slaughter, Assemblyman Fitzpatrick, Legislator Browning, Legislator Fleming, Assemblyman Thiele, Assemblyman Englebright, Assemblyman Palumbo, and Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017, Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming paid a visit to New York State officials at the Capitol Building in Albany to advocate for funding for Suffolk County’s public transportation system during state budget discussions. This is the second trip Fleming has made to Albany during her first term as County Legislator. She was joined by County Legislator Kate Browning and the Long Island Lobby Coalition.

“There are a number of areas in the New York State budget where Suffolk County fails to receive their fair share” stated Legislator Fleming. “Ensuring that my constituents are seeing benefits from all of the tax dollars they contribute is one of my top priorities, as well as ensuring that we are moving in the right direction with our public transportation efforts. These concerns have become especially critical since three county bus routes were eliminated in my district. I am thankful to Legislator Browning for joining me in lobbying state officials.”

“For decades Suffolk County has sent more tax dollars to Albany than we receive in return for services,” stated Legislator Browning. “One of the greatest disparities lies with State transportation funding. Suffolk County has

been paying tens of millions of dollars locally to support our buses while New York State subsidizes other Counties. Whether it be the MTA payroll tax or proposed taxes on ridesharing businesses, our tax dollars should stay here in Suffolk County so we can provide the vital services our residents need. I am hopeful that my strong message along with Legislator Fleming resonated with State officials, so we finally get our fair share in this year's state budget."

The Long Island Lobby Coalition is comprised of a number of organizations that create a platform and organize an annual Albany Lobby Day, for the purpose of meeting with Assembly, Senate, and Executive representatives to advocate issues important to Long Islanders. Fleming was appreciative of being included in the group's efforts.



During her visit to the State Capitol, Legislator Fleming met with Senator Ken LaValle; Senator John Brooks; a representative of Senator David Carlucci; Assemblyman Phil Ramos; Assemblyman Fred Thiele; Assemblyman Steve Englebright; Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick; the NYS Senate Independent Democratic Conference; the Long Island Assembly Delegation; and representatives of the Assembly Ways & Means committee including Anthony Rodolakis, Director of Tax and Economic Studies, Thomas Hodgkins, Deputy Director of Tax Studies and Eric Reimer, Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

A call for a more equitable return of MTA payroll tax dollars to suburban counties has been a focus for both Long Island representatives and state legislators representing the area since the inception of the tax. Under the current structure, Long Island residents are contributing more than half of what City residents pay per capita for a system with less infrastructure and much lower operating costs. Senator Murphy and Assemblyman Ramos have both introduced a bill to amend the tax law, the state finance law and the public authorities' law in relation to guaranteed shares of revenue of the metropolitan commuter transportation mobility tax. If approved by both bodies and signed by the Governor, suburban counties would receive an amount sufficient to cover 50% of their local share of operation and maintenance costs for public bus service, and 50% of station operation and maintenance costs.

Another area where Suffolk County has failed to receive their fair share is in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) funding. The formula is written in a way that provides Suffolk with less funding than other suburban counties in the state because of its large geographic size, despite similarities in population. Legislators Fleming and Browning are working with the Budget Review Office and the Department of Public Works to develop a more equitable formula for consideration by the state legislators.

During this legislative session, the state representatives have been considering policies for the expansion of ride sharing state-wide. The Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly are each considering proposals that differ in the percent of tax collected, and how it should be distributed. It is the goal of Legislator Fleming to ensure that the adopted version of the law returns an equitable portion of the revenue to Suffolk County.

Legislator Fleming and Attorney General Schneiderman's Office Talk Fraud Prevention with Flanders Senior Club



Legislator Fleming and Members of the Flanders Senior Club



Legislator Fleming and Timothy Hatter (AG's Office)

On Tuesday, March 21st at 11 A.M Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming and Timothy Hatter from the Attorney General's office spoke to the members of the Flanders Senior Club about ways to protect themselves from the many telephone and internet scams. During the presentation Mr. Hatter echoed how important it is that you never answer the phone if you don't recognize the number, and NEVER give your personal information to anyone calling claiming that you won a prize, or that your child or grandchild is in trouble. If someone calls telling you to send money or a gift card DON'T DO IT!

Legislator Fleming Honors Hampton Bays Veteran



On Friday, March 17th Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming presented Frederick Dacierno with a proclamation at the Hampton Bays Public Schools Veterans' Flag Ceremony in honor of his service to his country and his community. Mr. Dacierno is a graduate of Hampton Bays High School, class of 1969 and the Hampton Bays Public School system and Legislator Fleming would like to welcome home and thank Frederick Dacierno for his service to our country. Mr. Dacierno is the Veteran of the Month at Hampton Bays Public Schools. The flag flown in the month of March is in honor of his service.

Legislative District Two Honorees



Legislator Fleming and the Peterson Family members



Legislator Fleming Aubrey and his mother Susan Peterson

At the March 28th General Meeting in Hauppauge, Legislator Fleming Presented Aubrey Peterson, an eighth grader from East Hampton Middle School, with a proclamation for his outstanding accomplishments, and for winning both the 6th and 8th grade National Geography Bee for East Hampton Middle School. Aubrey was also selected to participate in the 2017 New York National Geography Bee in Albany.



Legislator Fleming and Ann Reisman woman of Distinction for the Second Legislative District

Legislator Fleming also congratulated Ann W. Reisman on being selected as the Woman of Distinction for Second Legislative District. Ms. Reisman and the seventeen other nominees from their respective Legislative Districts enjoyed lunch with members of the Legislature on March 28th in honor of their service to their communities and Suffolk County.

Fleming Marches in Hampton Bays and Montauk's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



Legislator Fleming, Assemblyman Thiele, and Supervisor Cantwell join Montauk residents to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (Photo credit Richard Lewin)

On Sunday, March 26, 2017 Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele and East Hampton Supervisor Larry Cantwell joined members, family and friends of the Montauk community to march in the 55th Annual Friends of Erin St. Patrick's Day Parade. Weather could not stop the day of the parade from moving forward, community groups, fire departments, police departments, civic organizations, religious groups, and educators turned out in their numbers to show their support and march in the parade.



Legislator Fleming, Councilman Bouvier, and Supervisor Schneiderman



Legislator Fleming with the past and Present Grand Marshals

On March 18th Legislator Fleming joined Southampton Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, Councilman John Bouvier and the many family and friends of the Hampton Bays community to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The event was a huge success and the turnout by the community was good. Many local groups and organizations marched with the bag pipe band. The parade began at 11 A.M the at Hampton Bays Elementary School on Ponquogue Ave., to Montauk Highway and west to the reviewing stand, ending in the Hampton Atrium parking lot. This year's Grand Marshal was Lars Clemensen.

Tick Prevention

Ticks will remain active year-round (above 40 degrees Fahrenheit/4 degrees Celsius). Preventative measures should be used whenever tick exposure is likely. Here are some ways to protect yourself:

- Wear lightly colored clothing
- Wear long pants and sleeves
- Tuck your pants into your socks
- Tuck your shirt into your pants
- Use repellents as directed
- Walk along the center of trails
- Conduct frequent clothing checks
- Carefully inspect your body for ticks
- Keep pets away from tick infested areas and check them before entering the house
- Once home, dry clothing on the highest temperature setting for 10 minutes to kill ticks



Tick removal kits and information can be picked up at our District Office, located at 75 Washington Street in Sag Harbor, or by calling the Southampton Hospital Tick Borne Disease Resource Center at 631-726-TICK.

Legislator Fleming's Spring Tips

Pedestrian Safety:

Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals

Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available

If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible. Cyclists should always ride with traffic and use hand signals when turning

Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible

Keep alert at all times – don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road

Camping Safety and Tips:

Prepare safe food and water, don't litter

Follow tick prevention tips below

Stay away from wild animals at night

Wear bug repellent to avoid pesky mosquitos

Always wear sunblock to stay protected from intense summer rays



COMMUNITY EVENTS

STEPPING ON

*BUILDING CONFIDENCE,
REDUCING FALLS*

**A FREE 7-WEEK WORKSHOP
PROVIDING EXERCISES
AND STRATEGIES
TO HELP PREVENT
YOU FROM FALLING**



10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
Every Friday starting March 24
Join Us: March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5
Stony Brook Southampton Library
39 Tuckahoe Road, Southampton, NY 11968
Call 631-444-8385 To Register

- ✓ Get professional advice from a Physical Therapist, Pharmacist, Vision Expert and Community Specialist;
- ✓ Learn techniques to improve balance and strength;
- ✓ Learn ways to keep from falling when out in your community and in your home

 Stony Brook Trauma Center |  Stony Brook School of Health Technology and Management

FILM AND WATER EVENT

LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER EAST END

A day of films, fun, and engaging conversations about water quality, sustainability and conservation of our greatest natural resource

10 AM FAMILY FILM
Wall-E

2 PM FILM AND PANEL DISCUSSION
H₂Omx
Conversation Featuring
Chris Gobler, Professor of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Stony Brook University
Bridget Fleming, Suffolk County Legislator
Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond

FREE ADMISSION

  **APRIL 23** **Guild Hall**
Sun 10am-5pm 158 Main Street
2017 East Hampton, NY
letstalkaboutwater.com