

District 17 • FALL 2013

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LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

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A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

I would like to share some exciting new information with you regarding two important infrastructure projects in the 17th Legislative District.

First, I am pleased to announce that a major phase in the long awaited reconstruction of Pinelawn Road (County Road 3) is set to move forward following the Legislature's recent approval of the County's \$3.3 million share of the \$18.5 million reconstruction project.

Pinelawn Road is one of the most heavily travelled thoroughfares between the Towns of Babylon and Huntington and this project will make the corridor much safer for both local businesses and the families who reside in the neighboring residential communities. More specific information about this project is detailed on Page 2 of this newsletter.

I also remain committed to bringing sewers to the underserved communities in Deer Park and North Babylon. That is why I am pleased to inform you that I successfully secured \$2 million in Suffolk County's Capital Budget, approved this past Spring, to finance a design report for the six most critical areas, as identified in the initial sewer feasibility study that was completed in 2012.

To secure this funding, I met with Suffolk County Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner Gilbert Anderson to discuss how to move forward now that the sewer feasibility study is complete. We determined that the timing was right for DPW to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to complete an engineering report for the most critical locations within the study area. Accordingly, with the assistance of my fellow Babylon Legislators, I successfully lobbied my colleagues to include \$2 million in the 2014-2016 Capital Program that was unanimously approved by the full legislature and subsequently signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone.

The engineering design report will make these priority areas essentially "shovel ready" for construction while providing County officials with a plan that we can utilize to secure the necessary sewer installation funding from outside sources. Once the in-depth analysis of the first six areas is complete, the Legislature can evaluate and determine the costs to analyze additional priority locations.

Residents have my commitment that I will continue to advocate on their behalf to improve the County roads and infrastructure within our community. Please feel free to contact my District Office if you would like more information on either of these projects, or if I can be of any other assistance.

Very truly yours,

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

Opening the Door to County Government

Seeking to make County government more transparent and accountable to the public, the Suffolk County Legislature recently approved a bill sponsored by Legislator D'Amato that mandates frequent updates of the County's new "Open Access" website.

The comprehensive website is modeled after the New York State Attorney General's innovative "Project Sunlight" program, a highly touted web-based tool that has been praised by good government watchdog organizations throughout the State, including the Suffolk chapter of the League of Women



Voters. The site allows Suffolk residents easy access to information about elected officials, County government and its various departments and divisions.

The site, which is accessible at <http://openaccess.suffolkcountyny.gov/> includes information about County services, contracts, legislation, budgets, campaign finances, lobbyists and other areas of interest to Suffolk residents. For example, the public has access to campaign contributions with the ability to cross-reference donors with any legislation that may have affected them. The site also attaches lawmakers' names to their respective spending items.

Pinelawn Road Project Moves Forward

If you travel along Pinelawn Road (County Road 3) in Melville and East Farmingdale, or live in one of the neighboring residential communities, you will be pleased to learn that a major phase in the long awaited reconstruction of this busy roadway, one of the most heavily travelled thoroughfares between the Towns of Babylon and Huntington, is set to move forward.

The Suffolk County Legislature recently approved the County's \$3.3 million share of the \$18.5 million reconstruction project. The appropriation, which represents 20% of the estimated total project cost, now entitles the County to qualify for an additional \$15.2 million in Federal aid that will fully fund the project. This appropriation represents a key step toward finally making the Pinelawn Road rehabilitation project a reality.



The project consists of two phases impacting different sections of the road. The first phase calls for the realignment of Pinelawn Road at the Ruland Road/Colonial Springs Road intersection in Melville. It includes the removal of the center median as well as the widening of Colonial Springs Road. This phase will also contain various drainage improvements. Specific design plans are in the process of being reviewed by the State and Federal governments with construction scheduled to commence by Spring 2014. Work on this phase should be completed within 18 months of commencement.

The second phase of the project is located further south on Pinelawn Road in East Farmingdale. This phase calls for the realignment of the existing offset intersection at Conklin Avenue/Long Island Avenue at its intersection with Pinelawn Road. This portion of the project requires the acquisition of adjacent privately owned land to facilitate the widening and reconstruction of the intersection. Adequate funding is available for these land acquisitions, which are presently in negotiation.

In the Community



Pictured left to right are Brendan's Grandmother Gloria Perry, his mother Jill Eising, sister Kayley Eising, father Paul Eising, Brendan, Legislator D'Amaro and Keri Inghilterra, his teacher.

Deer Park Youth Scientist Wins Brookhaven Lab Award

Brendan Eising of Deer Park received a Proclamation from Legislator D'Amaro as the 4th Grade Winner in the 2013 Brookhaven National Lab Elementary School Science Fair. His project, "Shake it Up," studied the correlation between aging and fine motor skills, finding that fine motor skills improve with age and then decline later in life.



Huntington Station Student is Top Citizen

Asha Burwell of Huntington Station was presented with the Legislator D'Amaro Citizenship Award in front of her teachers, family and friends at the Walt Whitman High School 2013 Senior Awards Night. The award is annually presented by Legislator D'Amaro to a student who "gives of him or herself for the betterment of the school and/or the community."



From left joining them are Steven (holding the winning drawing), Elizabeth and Jaclyn Gentile and, from JFK Intermediate School, Christine Carr, Anna Marino, Art Teacher Laurie Schwartz and Principal Susan Bonner.

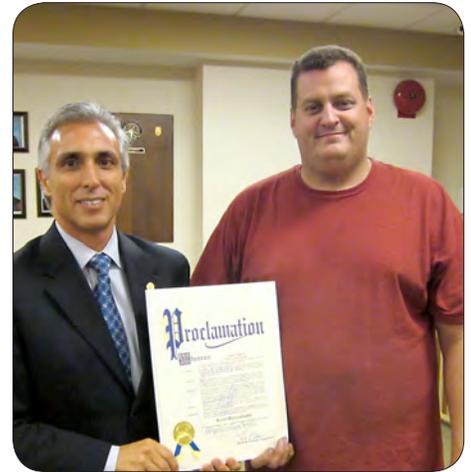
Artistic Endeavor Earns Student County Honors

JFK Intermediate School student Juliana Gentile of Deer Park was honored by Legislator D'Amaro before the entire Legislature for winning the County's 2013 "Be Pool Smart" poster contest. Established in 2007, the competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety by creating a poster that illustrates one or more safety tips. One poster is selected from all of those submitted to be used as part of a countywide message from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in its seasonal safety campaign.

In the Community

Firefighter of the Year

Congratulations to Lieutenant Kevin Heissenbuttel of Deer Park, 17th Legislative District 2013 Volunteer Firefighter of the year. A member of the Deer Park Fire Department since 2001, he currently serves as a Line officer. Whenever there is a job, task or community event, Kevin is the person to “get the job done,” according to the Department Chiefs. He maintains a full time job and somehow still finds time to be one of Deer Park’s most active members. Affectionately known as Lt. Christmas, Kevin personally prepares the firehouse for the holiday season, decorating and making his annual Christmas Eve Santa visit to both his fellow members’ children and “adopted” needy families. In recognition of Lt. Heissenbuttel’s efforts on behalf of the community, Legislator D’Amaro was proud to surprise and honor him at the Department’s October meeting.



Bring it on, Bulldogs!

Under sunny skies on a beautiful Fall day, it was all smiles as Legislator D’Amaro joined North Babylon High School students, administrators, local youth athletes and Board of Education members in a show of “Bulldog Pride” for the 2013 North Babylon High School Homecoming Parade. Beginning on Garnet Street with the Suffolk County Police Department and the North Babylon Fire Department leading the way, Legislator D’Amaro marched with new high school principal Jonathan Klomp down Deer Park Avenue to the high school as spectators filled the sidelines in a show of community spirit. The Bulldogs went on to defeat local rivals Copiague High School, 39-8, in the football game held later that day.



“I Got Carded!”

Local senior citizens came out in force to meet Legislator D’Amaro and receive their free Suffolk County Senior Citizen Identification Cards during Legislator D’Amaro’s September Community Outreach Program. Nearly 400 seniors participated in the events, held at the North Babylon Library, Deer Park Library, South Huntington Library and Town of Babylon Spangle Drive Senior Center.



The cards are good for the senior discounts on the Suffolk County bus, as well as other County and local discounts. More outreach programs are being planned for the future, but if you missed these programs, you can still get your card today by stopping by Legislator D’Amaro’s District Office, 130 West Jericho Turnpike, Huntington Station, weekdays from 9 am – 5 pm. For more information, call (631) 854-4433.



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.