

PRESS
RELEASE

Suffolk County Legislator, Twelfth District

LESLIE KENNEDY

P.O. Box 6100, Building 17
Hauppauge, NY 11788



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CONTACT: Zach Viola
LEGISLATIVE AIDE

PHONE: (631) 854-3735

FAX: (631) 854-3744

Email: zach.viola@suffolkcountyny.gov

LESLIE KENNEDY BRINGS RESOURCES FOR SENIORS TO NESCONSET



(Legislator Leslie Kennedy with Officer Bryan Stoothoff, Tim Hatter, and staff from Nesconset Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation)

November 3rd, 2016 This past Thursday evening, Legislator Leslie Kennedy (R-Nesconset) sponsored a Seniors Resource Seminar at Nesconset Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The event aims to bring together state and county agencies to make senior citizens aware of the resources available for them and their loved ones.

Speakers from multiple agencies participated in the seminar. Tim Hatter from the New York Attorney General's office spoke about Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's Smart Seniors Program a state-wide effort to make retirees more aware of scams being perpetrated against them and how they can protect themselves. Speaking with passion, he outlined the most common types of scams being

perpetrated against retirees, such as calls from the IRS and getting bad news regarding one's grandchildren where money is asked for, and dispensing valuable resources for protection. He stressed the questions to ask to easily determine if the caller is legitimate or a fraudster. He ended his presentation with the news that, for the first time, with the cooperation of New York State and the federal government, authorities in India arrested more than seven hundred individuals involved in phony IRS scams. "That made my month," Mr. Hatter declared.

Next, Officer Bryan Stoothoff from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office presented the lightweight transmitter which serves as the heart of the department's Lifesaver Program, an initiative meant to quickly locate individuals with cognitive impairments who have wandered off. He explained how the department's clients, or "family", ranged from autistic children to seniors with dementia or Alzheimer's. He recounted successful rescues and relayed people's sentiments, including his own, that, even if it was never needed, this was an extra measure of protection to put families' and caregivers' worries at ease. He also shared how, thanks to the nationwide existence of Project Lifesaver, authorities in Florida were able to locate an autistic child who'd wandered off just outside DisneyWorld while vacationing with his family.

Holly Rhodes-Teague, Director of the Suffolk County Department of Ageing, rounded out the evening's seminar with a description of the many programs and services provided and how retirees can attain them. Explaining things like ways retirees could get assistance with grocery shopping and light cleaning in their homes, Ms. Rhodes-Teague stressed that whenever people felt they needed just a little help, the Department of Ageing was ready and waiting.

All three presenters were met with curiosity and enthusiasm, which left Legislator Kennedy thrilled.

"To see the continuing success of this seminar is so fulfilling. We need to do everything we can to protect our seniors. Raising awareness about these resources is a huge step."

For more information about this event or other events in the community, please call our office at (631)-854-3735 or log onto Legislator Kennedy's Facebook page at facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy.

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