

PRESS  
RELEASE

Suffolk County Legislator, Twelfth District

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## LESLIE KENNEDY RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT RESOURCES FOR SENIORS IN SMITHTOWN



(Legislator Leslie Kennedy with Officer Bryan Stoothoff, Lauri Pack, and staff from Sunrise Senior Living )

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 This past Thursday morning, Legislator Leslie Kennedy (R-Nesconset) sponsored a Seniors Resource Seminar at Sunrise Senior Living of Smithtown. 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. Lauri Pack 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. She offered questions to ask when receiving an offer or solicitation for money, and

explained how to know an online transaction is valid and secure, stating that avenues like online banking are safer than paying bills by mail. She also outlined the most common types of scams being perpetrated against retirees, such as calls from the IRS and false reports of bad news regarding one's grandchildren where money is asked for, and dispensing valuable resources for protection.

Amy Nathan followed, explaining the role of Suffolk County's Department of Aging. She described 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. Nathan showed there are many ways for seniors to continue living independently.

The third speaker, 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.

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

"I am happy to see such interest and enthusiasm about these programs from our senior citizens and their loved ones. It just shows the extra step the state and county take for our most vulnerable populations."

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](https://facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy)..

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